

MEDIA STATEMENT

Thursday, 19 January 2023

In remembrance of Ugu District Municipality Mayor Phumlile Mthiyane, and Ugu District Municipality Manager (MM) Dr Elliot Ntombela

It is with the deepest sorrow that the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) has learned of the passing of Ugu District Municipality Mayor Phumlile Mthiyane, and the municipality's Municipal Manager (MM), Dr Elliot Ntombela.

Mayor Mthiyane's passing in the early hours of Monday morning came just days after the passing of the municipality's Municipal Manager, Elliot Ntombela, and SALGA would like to convey its warmest sympathies and sincere condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Mayor Mthiyane and MM Dr Ntombela at this difficult time.

SALGA President Cllr. Bheke Stofile reflected on Dr Ntombela's professional life, saying the local government sector benefited immensely from his commitment, professionalism and know-how attitude.

"Dr Ntombela's appointment was a positive step in the drive to professionalising the sector. His expertise and passion to transform local government gave hope that with the right drive, municipalities will continue to serve the people."

Dr. Ntombela was indeed a colossal giant, and his passing is not only an irreplaceable loss to his family and friends but to the local government sector as a whole.

The SALGA Women's Commission (SWC) would also like to join in the chorus of condolences to Mayor Mthiyane's family, and to her friends and colleagues.

"Mayor Mthiyane made an impact in her first year of office since being elected. Within a year, her municipality went from a qualified to an unqualified audit. That shows the type of leader she was and the potential the municipality had. We've lost great talent," said SWC National Chairperson Cllr. Ntandokazi Capa.

Mayor Mthiyane was not only the Mayor of Ugu District Municipality, but also a representative of women's leadership across the country; her leadership abilities demonstrated not only that women are capable, but also ready to hold positions of power and influence.

Her passing is a significant loss to local government and she will be sorely missed.

As SALGA remembers the lives of Mayor Mthiyane and MM Dr Ntombela, the organisation also mourns alongside their families and friends.

May their souls rest in peace.



END

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