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MEC Mahasa Expresses Her Condolences at the Passing-on of Mme Twala:

Like a Baobab tree she was deep rooted as her roots ran deeper into the solid ground. She stood unshaken and unbent by the raging storms around her as she stood firm above the ground. Her footsteps were thunderously heard and felt across the length and breadth of our land. She was indeed a colossus that trodded this land leaving footprints deep into the ground as evidence that indeed she has passed.

The Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation in the Free State, Mrs Limakatso Mahasa, joins the multitudes of South Africans in mourning the passing-on of Mme Mary Twala.

Mme Twala, larger than life as she was, represented the rich cultural and artistic heritage of our country. Jointly with several cultural practitioners and arts activists in our country, she was an embodiment of the rich creative spirit and artistic abilities in our country.

"It is to these pathfinders and torchbearers of the arts in our country that we must bow our heads and stretch our hands in salutation for the work they have done in preserving our identity as a people even during very difficult and dark times of apartheid. The fact that she was bestowed an Order of Ikhamanga by His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa, is true testimony to her iconic standing in

our history", observed MEC Mahasa. As the Free State we are one with the entire nation in celebrating the life of Mme Twala.

To her family, relatives, friends, fellow practitioners in the creative industry, we say *phephi*, be consoled; and *ha moya wa Mme Twala o robale ka kgotso*; may her spirit find eternal peace. She has fought the battle and let the young generation pick up the baton and follow her footsteps that are indelibly imprinted in the grounds of our land.

End.

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