



11 July 2020

## DSACR OBSERVES ANNIVERSARY OF THE LATE AMBASSADOR ZINZI MANDELA SINCE HER PASSING

A year ago, South Africa and the world learnt with shock about the news of the untimely passing of South Africa's Ambassador to Denmark, Ms Zinzi Mandela. The Free State MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation Mrs. Limakatso Mahasa wishes to take this opportunity to convey a message of hope and solidarity to the Mandela family, friends, comrades and former colleagues of the late Ambassador Mandela.

As a daughter of the late Former President Nelson Mandela and the late Mrs. Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Ms Zinzi Mandela was an activist in her own right and joined the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. In 1977 when the apartheid government banished her mother to Brandfort in the Free State, Ms Zinzi Mandela joined her mother and lived with her before leaving to further her studies in eSwatini. She first became South Africa's Ambassador to Denmark in 2015 and was also a published author of a poetry collection titled "*Black As I Am*" which was published in 1978. She will notably be remembered for delivering her father's refusal speech in 1985 at a United Democratic Front (UDF) rally in which Former President Mandela profusely rejected P.W. Botha's conditional release from prison.

Remembering this icon, MEC Mahasa stated that, "Comrade Zinzi Mandela passed on just a few days before her late father's birthday which is commemorated worldwide and offers all of humanity an opportunity to do good for others. In her honor, we must continue the fight against injustice, racism and inequality. We must intensify our efforts to create a society which is truly non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous. After all, these are the ideals that she fought for during and after apartheid. May her soul rest in peace".

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**Issued by the Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSACR)**

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