



18 August 2021

## DSACR POSTHUMOUSLY CELEBRATES NTATE TSEPO TSHOLA'S BIRTHDAY

Today, 18 August 2021, would have been Ntate Tsepo Tsola's 68<sup>th</sup> birthday but sadly, the nation and the rest of the world were robbed of this talented music genius just last month due to COVID-19 related complications. Indeed the music fraternity has been left poorer without his contribution but we find solace in the fact that he has left an indelible discography that we all treasure.

Ntate Tsepo Tshola (also known as The Village Pope) will be remembered as a musical genius whose music communicated the lived realities of the society in which we exist. He was a voice for the voiceless and marginalised among our populace hence he vociferously called out social ills through his music and rallied those in high echelons of power to action.

Commenting about this musical legend, the Free State MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation stated that, "As a Department, we attribute the success of the Mangaung African Cultural Festival (MACUFE) to artists of Ntate Tsepo Tshola's calibre who graced the festival from its inception and continued to play a pivotal part throughout its history spanning over two decades. MACUFE is now a global concert and funfair because he was among those who believed in the strength and capabilities of local artists to attract international audiences. We are still in mourning of his untimely departure but in his memory, we will continue with our efforts of promoting the arts and empowering local talent. May his soul rest in peace."

END.

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

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