

POST FUNERAL MEDIA STATEMENT OF THE LATE UMSHWATHI MUNICIPALITY MAYOR, SIPHINDILE ZONDI MBHELE.

The Mayor passed away at the age of forty-three. Her memorial service was held on Thursday 21 February 2019, and on Saturday 23 February 2019, she was laid to rest at a funeral service in Mtulwa. Family members, municipal employees, councilors, policy makers, representatives of the private sector, and government department officials, attended both events.

Politicians and peers delivered a moving dedication at the events. They express their sadness on the untimely passing away of the mayor and paid tribute to her for work dedication and her commitment to improve the lives of uMshwathi citizens. Her intellect and leadership skills that seek to resolve problems and keep people united were highly praised.

As speakers led the tribute, they told the mourners how the Mayor joined politics at a young age, at the height of political turmoil and of her unwavering commitment to the future dispensation that we are witnessing today. Her commitment to sound municipal administration that serves the community was equally praised.

Mourners remarked that she was fueled by love for humanity and her family. They added that “around her everyone felt welcomed and valued”. Thousands of people were touched by her kindness, her persistence in pursuit of a better municipality, and her drive to accomplish as much as she could within limited resources.

Maphindi's life was diverse and lived with enthusiasm. It reflected her uncountable interests in youth development programs, education, social and cultural activities. The impact of Sphindile's efforts can be seen here at every turn. But the true

impact of her vision and generosity is evident around uMshwathi Municipality. Her peers confirmed their commitment to furthering her mission for social justice, protection of vulnerable groups and local development.

The municipality and family wish to thank you all for being there when it matters the most. We thank you for emotional support received, for helping with making the funeral arrangements and for paying final tribute the leader that has moved on to the next life. Our special thanks goes to the government departments, districts municipality and neighboring municipalities, private sector representatives, political organizations, our staff members, volunteers from the community, neighbors, service providers, Family and Friends.

The great leader has departed, your support made it possible for us to come to terms with this sad reality.

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