

Media Statement

For attention Editors and Journalists

For immediate release

Wednesday, 26 January 2022

MEC Thandi Moraka pays tribute to the founder Chairperson of the Limpopo Arts and Culture Council (LACC), veteran actor Patrick Molefe Shai

Limpopo MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Ms. Thandi Moraka has paid tribute to the late veteran actor Patrick Molefe Shai, the founder chairperson of the Limpopo Arts and Culture Council (LACC), where he served from 2003 until 2013. It is during this time that he made an immense contribution to the creative arts industry in Limpopo Province. Shai passed away on Tuesday 22 January 2022 at his home in Dobsonville Soweto, at the age of 78.

He started his career back in the late 80's and is well known for his character as Nkwesheng in the popular Sepedi Drama 'Bophelo ke Sempheko'. In 1995, he wrote and acted in the film Hearts & Minds by playing the role "Mathews Kage". He joined with the cast of drama serial Soul City in the year 2000, for which he won the Avanti Trophy for Best Actor at the NTVA Avanti Awards. In 2005, he joined with the SABC2 mini-series Noah's Arc and nominated for the SAFTA Golden Horn for Best Actor at 2010 SAFTA. In 2008, he acted in the SABC2 sitcom Moferefere Lenyalong and played the lead role of "Kgosi Matlakala". After that, in 2010, he played the role "Bra Sporo" in the SABC2 drama series Hola Mpinji and as "Tiger Sibiya" for the third season of the SABC1 drama series Zone 14. He acted and starred in drama and series such as Generations, Yizo Yizo, Uzalo and The River.

"The inspirational leadership and passion of Patrick Shai ensured that the creative arts industry in the country and Limpopo Province filled the hearts of humanity with joyfulness, sadness and poignancy – from the villages of Bolebedu where he has his roots and towns of the country where he showcased his talent, to the far corners of the earth. He was a role model to people starting out in the industry. Mr. Shai also played a crucial role in the fight against Gender Based Violence throughout the country" Said MEC Moraka.

Ends.....

Lucky Tshilimandila

Jermina Kaka

079 609 9613

060 997 7078