



22 July 2020

DSACR STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF LAST REMAINING RIVONIA TRIALIST – ANDREW MEKETE MLANGENI

It is with a deep sense of sadness that the Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSACR) has learnt about the passing away of the last remaining Rivonia Trialist and *Isithwalandwe Seaparankwe* Andrew Mekete Mlangeni. He passed on aged 95.

Mr. Mlangeni was a recipient of the *Isithwalandwe Seaparankwe* award – the highest honour by the African National Congress for those who have made an outstanding contribution to the liberation struggle in 1992 – and received the Presidential Order for Meritorious Service: Class 1: Gold from President Nelson Mandela in 1999.

At the passing of Ntate Mlangeni the Department had already planned to host the annual Dr. Andrew Mokete Mlangeni High-Performance Inter-Provincial Golf Competition starting this year. The MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Mrs Limakatso Mahasa, was anticipated to make this announcement in her Budget Vote Speech scheduled for 29 July 2020. The announcement will still go ahead and will be a befitting tribute to this stalwart from the people of the Free State who consider him a formidable part of our political and cultural heritage.

“A colossal figure in the history of our struggle against apartheid and racism has fallen. He was the last remaining Rivonia Trialist and is undoubtedly welcomed by other brave men and women in heaven who fought alongside him. We are indebted to keep his teachings and carry forward his legacy. As an activist, Ntate Mlangeni never really retired from his important leadership role in society; he was still full of energy and zeal to serve his country until his

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last days. He epitomized selfless and ethical leadership. May his soul rest in peace". Reflected MEC Mahasa.

End.

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

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