

Oration by the Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture, Hon. EN Mthethwa, on the occasion of the Memorial Service of Dr Thulani John Mbuli on the 15th July 2020, Gauteng Province.

Program Director: Mr Khwezi Ka Mpumlwana

The Mbuli family.

The Academic Family.

Dignitaries amongst us today.

Representatives of the media.

Distinguished audience.

Ladies and gentlemen.

Fellow compatriots.

Fellow South Africans lend me your ear, today we have gathered here to pay our last respect to the son of the soil, an African patriot who defied circumstances that were deliberately designed to condemn him to oblivion.

Our country, the academic community and nature herself, has been in mourning since that fateful day, when Dr Thulani John Mbuli ceased to breathe.

As we gathered here, we shed tears for Dr Mbuli, but those tears are of love, the joy we derived from the respect he extended to all of us.

Words seem inadequate to express the sadness we feel about the passing of this iconic son of Africa's academic family.

His life was personified by hard work, sheer determination and resilience.

I speak on behalf of our government when I convey our collective gratitude to the work that this giant has performed in his life-time. A work that will form part of our national memory.

Though physically he might be gone but he will continue to talk to us through his work. Work that communicate a message that says no matter the challenges of the day, our destiny is in our hands, the future is brighter.

Amongst my duties as the Minister responsible for Sport, Arts and Culture is to appoint Boards and Council members to help manage these entities. Dr Mbuli was one of those I have appointed to serve as a Chairperson of the Board of the National Heritage Council.

When I appoint these boards and Councils I expect them to abide by the following amongst others:

Good Corporate Governance.

Corporate Governance is the underlying philosophy of **mechanisms, practices** and **processes** by which an entity is directed and controlled.

The fundamental purpose of good corporate governance is to facilitate **effective** and **prudent management** that can deliver the long term success of an entity.

The Council of a public entity must Act with fidelity, honesty, integrity and in the best interests of the entity. Dr Thulani Mbuli lived and died by these principles. I hope members of the boards can take a leaf from the lessons of his life conduct.

His sense of integrity and courage told him to refuse to be corrupted, bought and intimidated. He knew that he should never disown the cause of freedom, and be, transformed into something other than an African patriot.

In his short lifetime he had chosen the suffering of a life of honour, rather than the false comfort of a Judas.

A German scholar makes a very telling point when he says:

“Men make their own history, but they do not make it as they please; they do not make it under self-selected circumstances, but under circumstances existing already, given and transmitted from the past”.

We can say as well that he spoke to people of Dr Mbuli calibre.

The good deeds of Thulani are not interred with his bones but are with us. We, the title holders of his deeds must advance them further for the betterment of our society, this is what he lived for.

Development of any society cannot succeed if the youth does not play its role because you are the future. The realisation of the ideals of a united, non-racial, non-sexist,

democratic and prosperous society rests upon your shoulders.

Thulani touched our lives in different ways. The tears we shed and the sense of helplessness we feel, are a direct result of the void his untimely passing has left in our lives.

Today, we must all renew our pledge and commitment to ensure that we do our part in uprooting corruption in every station of life we find ourselves.

To you Dr Thulani John Mbuli we say,

A life well lived is a precious gift, of hope and strength and grace from someone who has made our world a brighter and better place.

Its filled with moments, sweet and sad with smiles and sometimes tears, with friendships formed and good times shared, and laughter through the years.

A life well lived is a legacy, of joy and pride and pleasure, a living lasting memory our grateful hearts' will forever treasure.

Good byes hurt the most especially when the story was not finished.

I thank you for your attention.