



**MINISTRY
SPORT AND RECREATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**MINISTER OF SPORT & RECREATION Ms TOKOZILE XASA (MP)
TRIBUTE TO THE MASINGA FAMILY. JOHANNESBURG, GAUTENG.**

THURSDAY, 24 JANUARY 2019

Ntombi and the Masinga Family

Premier of North West Province – Prof Tebogo Job Mokgoro

President of SAFA – Dr Danny Jordan

Chairperson of PSL – Dr Irvin Khoza

Chairman of Jomo Cosmos – Jomo Sono

Representative of Sundowns – Alex Shakoane

Class of 1996 and Legends of the beautiful game

Ladies & Gentlemen

Good Morning

We are here to bid farewell to a true warrior, Phil “Chippa”

Masinga. The ANC led government decided to offer Phil Masinga

a provincial funeral category 2, this honour is given to

distinguished persons. I think all of us can attest that Phil

Masinga was a phenomenal ambassador of our country and the

beautiful game. Phil Masinga placed his life in the service of our country and served our country with distinction. Phil Masinga was an international footballer, he was a messenger to the world community that indeed South Africa was free, that South Africa was charting a path to a normal society, and this was after years of international community boycott, after an intense lobby by the South African Council on Sport that “**No normal sport in an abnormal society.**” This became a rallying call for the international community to boycott Colonial Apartheid sport. Therefore Phil Masinga together with some of his teammates who played internationally became a critical voice and an amplifier of the Rainbow nation we were constructing as people, that finally **South Africa will belong to all those who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of the people.**

Since the democratic breakthrough, we have continued to use sport as a tool for Nation building and Social Cohesion. Phil Masinga belongs to that generation that assured us, that we are South Africans united in our diversity, as football supporters we responded by cheering them on as true representatives of our aspiration as people. When they lifted that trophy in 1996 we collectively said, “We won, South Africa won.”

Today we are here to say farewell to one of the gallant fighters, we are here to bare testimony to his greatness. Phil Masinga was a true representative of our nation across the World, he carried our flag high with pride.

Phil Masinga represented a true spirit of South Africaness and he is an embodiment of South African opportunity and a true inspiration to the future of South Africa's youth. He has risen from the background of poverty and made it on a World stage and proved that with freedom and democracy as well as equal opportunity, every young person can perform to the best of their ability on a World stage. Phil represents a generation of South Africa's youth who made the most of the new found freedom and opportunities presented by the 1994 democratic breakthrough.

As the department of Sport & Recreation we have an added responsibility to identify and nurture more Masinga's. The MoU we have signed with the department of Education will allow us this year to identify talent at an early stage. As the department we know very well that success doesn't happen overnight, it's through hard work and proper nurturing of talent. As a nation we must pay more attention on development, no miracles will give us instant success. As Sport loving people we must be at pains to understand how is the development of athletes, is the environment conducive to develop more Masinga's? Let us collectively develop a Winning Nation by continuously investing in the future.

Phil Masinga was a Legend, he served as the Vice President of the South African Masters and Legends Football Association, to honour him, as the department of Sport & Recreation we commit

to training 100 of the former players in football and across other sporting codes a year towards coaching qualifications in SASCOC Coaching Framework through the Sport Coaches Outreach (SCORE) Programme. We will further meet with all Legends across sporting codes to determine how best they can contribute in sport, post their career in a more sustainable way.

To Ntombi and the Masinga family we are here to cry with you, we are here to celebrate a life well lived. Please find comfort in the words of Isaiah 41:10

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

May you remain strong in this hour of doubt, knowing very well that God is our savior.

I thank you.