

**Eulogy by KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo on the occasion of the funeral for Mrs. B.E.D. Bolane**

17 March 2017

Members of the Bolane family

Members of the Nursing fraternity

Abafundisi

Amalunga eBandla

Omakhelwane

Fellow mourners

I am not solely here in my capacity as an MEC; but I am here representing the KwaZulu Natal Government and its people to say thank you to a life dedicated to serve mankind.

The passing on of Mrs. Bolane received a special mention in the KwaZulu Natal Cabinet meeting that set on Wednesday, March 15 at the Premier's Office in Pietermaritzburg. There I was mandated to attend this service – to thank the family for allowing us to utilize Mrs. Bolane's skills; expertise and talent.

Death and funerals as always are solemn and intense occasions.

Indeed, the family has lost a beloved member but on their hour of grief and pain, we are all here to say what a life lived in full.

UMama Bolane cared for human life; at a tender age, she dedicated all her existence to serve and save mankind by choosing to be a Nurse.

Mrs. Bolane commenced training as a nurse at McCord Hospital in 1950 and commencing working at King VIII Hospital in 1955 where she trained further as a midwife and further her studies in community health.

Mrs. Bolane and her family nearly suffered the fate that was visited to other social and political activists as that of the brutal slaying of Mrs. Victoria Mgxenge; Dr. and Mrs. Antony Rubeiro in Mamelodi; the cross border raids of Matola in Mozambique; Maseru in Lesotho; Manzini in Swaziland and Gaborone in Botswana. This as her house was bombed twice in 1985.

Her only crime was to enforce ethic and professionalism in the Nursing profession whereupon she refused to succumb to demands by warlords who wanted to hold political meetings during working hours at Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital. Indeed, this was at an era when political intolerance between political parties was rife even government institutions, including hospitals infiltrated by political thugs and agent provocateurs. Mrs. Bolane with her strong leadership qualities and professional ethics; maintained her non-partisanship and demanded the same from staff that had to uphold their Oaths to serve mankind irrespective of colour; creed and beliefs.

Mama Bolane was real professional who showed her strengths where it

mattered most, she dedicated her time, skills, resources and vast knowledge in running nurse training sessions on Sundays to develop aspiring young health professionals without any compensation

I consider myself very fortunate in that even though I joined the KZN Department of Health in 2009, long after she had retired; I was privileged to have personally met uMama Bolane.

She was in her early 80s then; gracious; petite, clever; beautiful and very alert.

I got to know that after dedicating almost all her adult life serving as a highly qualified nurse and midwife – that, that erstwhile KwaZulu Government withheld and refused her deserved pension.

I was embarrassed, angry and ashamed but through the support of the then Premier, Dr Zweli Mkhize and God's grace, we were able to find a way to compensate her and to offer apologies for the years she had spent enduring this act of inhumane injustice.

Sithethelele Jehova ngamacala ethu.

Lala ngoxolo Mama Bolane, uyifezile indima yakho.

Qhawe leqiniso!