

MEMORIAL SERVICE-BHEKICALA STANLEY GUMEDE

Date: 8 AUGUST 2018

Time: 14.30

Venue: Germiston Police Station Hall

A large amount of people attended the Service.

The Master of Ceremonies was Magistrate **Mr Summary MASANGO**.

He said Stan encouraged him to complete his education and that at the age of 23 he went back to school and thereafter qualified as lawyer. And today he is a Magistrate. All due to Stan's persistency.

He proudly displayed his SETTA (SOUTH EASTERN TRANSVAAL TENNIS ASSOCIATION) tie which was awarded to him for representing his unit at the national tournaments.

The opening prayer was conducted by **Mr Stan Dywili**, a tennis player and member of SETTA. He was also a close friend of Stan.

Judge Moss Mavundla spoke of meeting Stanley at Turfloop University for the first time in 1970's and their friendship continued since then. He recalls Stanley opening up a practice in Germiston when it was reserved for WHITES only and he encouraged him to do so as well.

One day when he came to the office he was told that he must report to JOHN VORSTER police station which he was afraid to do so as he did not want to meet the same fate as the late AHMED TIMOL who was thrown out of the window of the John Vorster police station some time earlier.

He also lamented the fact that they were not getting sufficient work from the Government and landed up doing criminal, divorce and maintenance matters.

Another Judge, who was a former colleague spoke about Stan's perseverance and friendly demeanour.

Thereafter **YOUNAID WAJA** spoke of his long association with Stan that stretched over 20 years. Younaid, Stan and Yusuf Bhyat were elected to the executive of the Tennis Association of South Africa (TASA) at the same time in 1984/85. Stan was elected vice-president, Younaid as treasure and Yusuf as assistant secretary. Younaid related how he Stan, Yusuf and Mohammed Sheikh (then president of the Transvaal Tennis Board (TTB) travelled far and

wide to set up provincial bodies in the greater Transvaal. He mentioned that during TASA's existence he and Stan had spend together a week in June and a week in December/January officiating at the national Junior and senior tournaments. He related how he, Stan and other non- racial sports person protested at the first Davis Cup match held at the Ellis Park Tennis Stadium following the re-admission of South Africa to International Tennis Federation. TASA felt that the time was not yet right for international participation as all the tennis bodies were not yet united. Stan was among those that were arrested and JUDGE MAVUNDLA (who spoke earlier) was the Lawyer who defended those that were arrested. **He recalls that Mpho Mokoena who was a little girl then and Jackie van Staade were among those arrested.** Since 1990 up to 1996 he and Stan were intimately involved in negotiations with the white body and the National Sports Federation. He and Stan were also involved in negotiations with the African National Olympic Committee, the IOC and others. Stan was unwavering in his commitment to non- racialism and the transformation of sport so that it would be fully inclusive of the black majority.

Ajit Gandabhai representing the NON RACIAL SPORTS HISTORY PROJECT (NRSHP) shared condolences received from former SACOS players and officials.

He could not exactly remember when he met Stan but that they had gone to Sebokeng together to meet youth formations interested in playing non- racial sport .But heavy police presence militated against making meaningful advances. Some of those youth were detained and so matters ended there.

Also they worked as SACOS Executive members and at the SACOSPORT FESTIVAL of 1988 which maybe be the biggest gathering of sportspersons in SA without full time staff and limited resources.

The last time they met was in FEB 2016 at a NRSHP function where Stan was presented with a special award for his contribution to non- racial sport.

Ajit Gandabhai was also surprised to discover how big an area non racial tennis was covered by the non racial Transvaal Tennis Board and as a mark of honour to Stan to resusitate those areas that fell by the wayside after Unity.

Yousuf Bhayat (Secretary of SETTA) –who spent many years together Stan in tennis and virtually met every day – was too distraught to speak.

Mpho Precious Mokoena started her address by saying that without Stan she would not have become an excellent tennis player; but Stan also mentored her in her career. And this began when she was 12 years old. She fondly recalls celebrating his birthday on the 25th of

December each year as they were normally travelling to tournaments .She was overcome with emotion and could not continue.

Jackie van Staade expressed similar sentiments and recall an incident during unity talks with their white local body. Stan insisted that the logo of the unified body be a new one and not their old one. The passion and commitment he spoke with left the white body speechless.

John Majola spoke next and said that this memorial service must dedicate itself to once again introduce tennis in the SETTA areas as all has fallen apart after unity.

A friend from **MILAZI INCORPORATED** a firm of attorneys spoke thereafter.

Then **BONISWA NGWANDLA** rendered a song and Stan Dywili closed the service with a vote of thanks.