

Press release

Dated: Wednesday 10th January 2018

Subject: Keorapetse (Bra Willie) Kgositsile (19 September 1938 – 3 January 2018), a comrade, stalwart and friend.

RECLAIMING OUR HISTORY, FOR THE SAKE OF OUR FUTURE

Dear Member of the Media

Introduction

This press release has been prepared by the ANC stalwarts and veterans (the stalwarts) who are signatories to the document “For the Sake of our Future” <https://sakeofourfuture.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Sake-of-Our-Future-Founding-Document.pdf> in October 2016. The signatories also facilitated the recent National Consultative Conference on the ANC in November 2017. The declaration of that conference can be found at <https://sakeofourfuture.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Declaration-of-the-NCC-on-the-ANC-2017-1.pdf>

Keorapetse (Bra Willie) Kgositsile (19 September 1938 – 3 January 2018), a comrade, stalwart and friend.

Bra Willie was our country’s first and only national poet laureate. He will be remembered for his humility, his disarming smile and a life dedicated to others.

He was and will remain a role model; an inspiration to many younger poets and writers, not only in South Africa but internationally. His life was dedicated to others with no thought of self-interest; a true revolutionary. He was an original signatory to the document “For the Sake of our Future” and an active participant in the work of the stalwarts.

Please find below the memorial and funeral arrangements for Comrade Bra Willie. These are in date order:

Wednesday 10th January, 17h30 - A memorial at Houghton Primary School organised by the ANC Houghton Branch. The late Bra Willie was a member of this Branch.

Daily 18h00 to 19h00 - Tributes to Comrade Bra Willie’s life at the open square next to 16 North Ave, Mediterranean Heights, Killarney.

Thursday, 11th January 2018 12h00 to 16h00 - the Official State Memorial at the Johannesburg City Hall.

Friday 12th January 2018 12h00 – A memorial service organised by the Artistic Community at the Market Theatre.

Tuesday 16th January 2018, 9h00 – The Funeral is at Marks Park. This is a State Funeral Category One (1). <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/download/file/1031>

The burial will take place at the Heroes Acre, West Park Cemetery.

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Background

The late Comrade Kathrada was the first signatory of the document “For the Sake of our Future” and we remain honoured by the continued presence and support of Comrades Denis Goldberg and Andrew Mlangeni.

As stalwarts, we count amongst us those who knew and worked with OR Tambo; were part of those who led the struggle against apartheid, spent their time at the “schools” on Robben Island and other prisons throughout the country; were the class of ’76; in the leadership, or loyal soldiers of Umkhonto we Sizwe; part of the internal underground; leaders and members of the UDF; members of the Alliance and progressive organisations.

During the fight against apartheid we worked in secrecy to avoid arrest, imprisonment, torture or death. That secrecy is no longer necessary and we must now create an open democratic party, fit for purpose. Today, secrecy only feeds unacceptable behaviours, factions, slates and deals that have no place in a democratic party of the future.

As stalwarts, we have been and remain loyal members of the ANC over many decades. Our objective is to continue to serve all the people of South Africa and ensure the historical values and principles of the ANC are restored. As stalwarts, we feel a profound responsibility to the movement and the country, to ensure that the principles and values of the ANC are not destroyed.

We believe that the overwhelming majority of our citizens embrace the values of the Freedom Charter and the Constitution of our country.

We would like to believe that we speak on behalf of all members of the ANC who reject state capture and any form of corruption; want to see the realization of our potential as a nation and who are committed to the elimination of poverty and the unacceptably high levels of inequality.

A message to the media

We realise that you may not be necessarily based in Johannesburg and we will try and facilitate interviews for you, if so required.

For media enquiries and interviews please do not hesitate to contact:

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The web site is: sakeofourfuture.co.za

The Email address is: sakeofourfuture@gmail.com

The Facebook page is: "<https://www.facebook.com/ANCstalwartsandveterans/>."

It should be noted this is an open Facebook page and posts do not necessarily reflect the collective positions of the signatories to the document "For the Sake of our Future".

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