

FAREWELL TO MEC FEZI

Dec 7 2012

The people of the Free State bade farewell on Wednesday to one of the province's daughters, MEC for health, the late "Fezi" Ngubentombi in a packed Boet Troskie Hall at the Central University of Technology.

Various political structures of the ANC, top ANC leaders in the province, staff of the department of health and other comrades paid tribute to the woman described as "a loving and caring flower" while a soft drizzle fell over the city of Mangaung.

Fundiswa "Fezi" Ngubentombi, 47, and her driver Sergeant Bena Motaung, 35, died last Saturday in a car accident on their way back from the "Hands off Zuma" rally in Qwa Qwa.

Ngubentombi's youngest daughter, 13-year-old Zandile, was seriously injured and is being treated in the ICU of a city hospital for burn wounds. Another injured in the accident was the MEC's bodyguard Tebogo Nqono.

In a moving tribute to Ngubentombi, two of her daughters, Phumeza and Zintle, sang one of their mother's favourite gospel songs, "Death will never conquer as the spirit lives on".

Son Phumzile read his mother's favourite poem, Sonnet 116 by Shakespeare, where love is described as "forgiving" and "eternal".

One of Ngubentombi's fellow office bearers, MEC for public works, Sisi Mabe, said in an emotional tribute to her friend, it was a privilege to have been with her for the past 16 years. "

I am standing here a proud person because I knew Fezi. She taught me a lot, but most importantly, she taught me to pray," she said. "

Premier Ace Magashule managed to put a smile on the mourners' faces when he told how Ngubentombi regularly informed him about gossiping by the other MECs. He told the congregation how Ngubentombi used to pray every day at midnight.

"She prayed for everybody, believers and non-believers. There was only one Fezi," Magashule said.

Ngubentombi will be buried on Saturday morning in Sasolburg, the town in which she spent most of her life as a school teacher and politician.

[Source: www.thenewage.co.za]