

**VOTE OF THANKS BY COUNCILLOR S W MDABE, THE MAYOR OF ILEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY ON THE MEMORIAL SERVICE OF THE KADER ASMAL, 07 JULY 2011, KWADUKUZA TOWN HALL**

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Programme Director, Honourable Speaker of KwaDukuza, Mr. T. Khuluse

MEC of Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, MEC Willies Mchunu,

Asmal Family,

Mayors and Councilors present,

Members of Parliament present;

Distinguished guests,

Comrades and friends:

On behalf of His Worship the Mayor of iLembe District Municipality who cannot be with us today, we join the nation in extending our heartfelt condolences to the entire Asmal family. The death of former Minister and freedom fighter Kader Asmal has weakened our democracy. One of the greatest independent thinkers has left us.

On behalf of the people of iLembe District, we would like to thank the Asmal family for allowing their beloved father, husband, friend to dedicate his life to fighting for democracy in South Africa. You have selflessly shared him with the world. Thank you. We, as South Africans, will always cherish his efforts to bring about change and healing in the world at large.

uProfessor Asmal ebesebenza ngokungakhathali, ekholelwa ekusenenzeni ngokuzimisela. Ngesikhathi ewungqongqoshe owengamele unyango wezamanzi, washeshe wathola igama eliyisidlaliso elithi “ unqongqoshe wayoyonke iminyango”ngoba wayefunda imiqingo yayonke iminyango kahulumeni ebese ephawula futhi anikeze iziyalo ezinesigqi.

As a nation we grew accustomed to Prof. Asmal, an intellectual, who engage in fierce debates about critical issues affecting our country. Kader Asmal was one of the old school freedom fighters. He was not afraid to speak his mind and stand up for what was right, no matter the circumstances. Sadly, he has left us at a time when South Africa is in need of guidance and counsel from wise heads motivated by what is best for all South Africans instead of political self-enrichment.

Asmal possessed a firmness and virtue that sustained his character of transparency and honesty throughout his life. More than anything else, Kader

Asmal showed the world while little is required to overcome negative opinion and bad intentions; it takes the highest moral courage to rebuke great and good men for their conduct.

Ukuhamba kwakhe emhlabeni, iNingizimu Africa ilahlekelwe iqhawe nengqalabutho lenkululeko. Uyohlala eyisibonelo esihle somuntu onobuntu futhi enemigomo eqotho ngenkululeko.

It will be extremely difficult to replace someone of the calibre of Asmal. Although he died at the age of 76, one may feel that he still had much to contribute, after a life-time of contribution to making South Africa a better place to live and work.

I can only hope that the ANC will honour his example by teaching the values which forged our generation, so that they may also shape our younger generation.

We would like to thank those who contributed their tireless efforts in organizing such an important occasion in remembrance of a stalwart, an intellectual and a great man - the son of the soil, who played a great role in bringing about the democracy that South Africans are enjoying today. The world has lost a truly amazing person who touched, inspired and taught millions through his profession.

Ngibonga.