MEDIA STATEMENT

THE SABC SENDS CONDOLENCES TO THE SUKUMANI FAMILY

Johannesburg - Tuesday, 16 June 2020 – The South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) would like to extend its condolences to the family of Mr Jerry Sukumani, following his passing. Mr Sukumani, a renowned retired Munghana Lonene FM's Radio Announcer served the SABC for 18 years from 1968 to 1986.

He was one of the trailblazers of radio broadcasting in South Africa during the apartheid era. He started his radio journey at the erstwhile Radio Bantu and was one of the creative pioneers of radio broadcasting in XiTsonga language under Radio Bantu's XiTsonga service.

As part of celebrating Munghana Lonene's 55 years on air in February 2020, the station featured historical broadcasts including Mr. Sukumani's programmes which still proved appealing to listeners to date. During his tenure at Munghana Lonene FM, listeners grew very fond of him when he presented a programme called '*Ta vutomi'* with the late Makamu, a programme that has survived and thrived for more than five decades. The programme is now called '*Gongomela'* with some of the elements of the show having been split to be called '*Xipapilwana'*.

Mr Sukumani will be remembered for the remarkable legacy that he left in the broadcasting industry. His immense contribution to radio which has stood the test of time, serves as a well of inspiration which broadcasters will continue to draw from.

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Issued By: **Group Communications**

Media Enquiries: **Ms. Mmoni Seapolelo SABC Spokesperson (Acting)**

seapolelomv@sabc.co.za|T. 011 714 3057|C. 073 688 1590