



MEDIA STATEMENT

SABC SENDS HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY OF MR. ERIC MAKELANA

Johannesburg- Tuesday, 08 September 2020 – The South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) has learnt with sadness, of the passing of Mr Eric Goodfriday Makelana. Mr. Makelana, who passed away yesterday, was a long-standing Mughana Lonene FM Senior Announcer and was popularly known as ‘Khel-Khel’ or ‘Bhut Khel’ on the airwaves.

Mr. Makelana joined the SABC radio station in September 1987. His first assignment was on an evening show called ‘*Ahi Xuxeni*’. He later presented amongst others, programmes such as “*Wa ti tiva leti*” a show based on encyclopaedic information, a chart show known as “National Top 20” from 1996 to 1999 as well as ‘*Ta Vutomi*’. He also presented the music request line programme at lunchtime Monday to Friday called ‘*Dial a Tune.*’

Being the versatile presenter that he was, Bhut Khel won the station listeners’ hearts as a presenter for a late-night show called ‘*Phofula*’ which dealt with deep family issues including marital challenges related topics.

Some of Khel-Khel’s achievements include being voted for “presenter of choice” by listeners for evening shows in the year 2015 at the Mughana Lonene FM Staff Awards.

At the time of his passing, Mr. Makelana was presenting the shows ‘*Gongomela*’ and ‘*Timintsu ta Xitsonga Top 10*’ respectively. Buti Khel loved listening to Xitsonga music and giving sound advice to junior staffers he worked with at the station.

The SABC extends its heartfelt condolences to the Makelana family and friends and relatives. He will be dearly and sorely missed by those who worked with him at Mughana Lonene FM.

May his soul rest in peace.

END

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