



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **SABC MOURNS THE PASSING OF FORMER UKHOZI FM'S STATION MANAGER MR WELCOME BHODLOZA NZIMANDE**

**Johannesburg, Friday, 15 January 2021**-It is with great sadness that the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) has learnt of the passing of former Ukhozi FM Station manager and renowned broadcaster, Mr. Welcome Bhodloza Nzimande.

His career at the SABC started in 1978 as an announcer on Radio Zulu. After 19 years at the station he was appointed as a Station Manager of present day Ukhozi FM, a position which he held for 13 years. Affectionately known as '*Ingulube encane*' Mr. Nzimande was revered as a pioneer in Maskandi music appreciation and commercialization. During his tenure at Ukhozi FM, he was instrumental in promoting indigenous as well as traditional music genres on his radio programme called '*Sigiya ngengoma*'. Mr Nzimande was a great leader who led the Ukhozi FM team in growing the station's listeners to over 6 million in 2006, selflessly contributing to many radio and music careers through his passion for empowering the youth. He also presented the popular traditional music television program called '*Ezodumo*' on SABC1.

After retiring from the SABC, Mr. Nzimande pursued business and various other interests. He also served as the Chairman of the Unemployment Insurance Fund Board.

The SABC and Ukhozi FM wish to express sincere condolences to his family, friends, former colleagues and followers.

**END**

**Media Enquiries: Mmoni Seapolelo (Acting Spokesperson)**

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