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## **PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT : The untimely passing of Mr Welcome Msomi**

The Chairperson of the Board, Nise Malange announced to the industry and media with a heavy heart the fall of a creative industry giant, Mr Welcome Msomi. An acclaimed director and playwright, Mr Msomi served on the board of the KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission from its inception in 2013 until 2019.

Welcome Msomi, born in Chesterville, Durban in 1943, started writing at the age of 15. He founded the iZulu Dance Theatre (IDT) and Music in 1965 in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. In 1979 the IDT opened at the Brooklyn Academy of Music to rave reviews. iZulu Dance Theatre Children's Company was also formed. Some of his works include "Mntanami Nomhlangano mntanami", "Qondeni", "Charrie Ntimbane", "Phezulu", "Black and White is beautiful" and "Makhoba and Thembi".

Msomi's significant success, "UMabatha" (a Zulu adaptation of Shakespeare's Macbeth) was staged at the Aldwych Theatre in 1972 and at Sir Peter Daubeny's World Theatre in 1973 season.

Ms Nise Malange remembers that Mr Msomi's significant success won international acclaim as a playwright, choreographer and Director. His many works have been showcased around the country and abroad. His plays aimed to showcase the ordinary South Africa, heritage, culture and the ways of living.

"His chairmanship was instrumental in providing guidance and support for the local film industry. He was passionate and committed to transforming the industry as well as creating opportunities for all creatives, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds" says, Ms Malange.

We thank him for his contribution and we salute him for his dedication to the course of transforming the creative industries'.

To the family the Chairperson on behalf of the KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission and the KZN film industry extends condolences at this difficult times and hope the family will find the strength to pull through. May his dearly departed soul, rest in peace. Lala ngoxolo Nomndayi, amava akho azwakele.



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### **About the KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission**

The KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission is a provincial state entity, under the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal South Africa established in terms of the KwaZulu-Natal Commission Act, 2010 (Act No 3 of 2010). Its mandate is to facilitate support throughout the value chain to the local and international film industry through creating opportunities and also growing the KwaZulu-Natal film industry.

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