

**STATEMENT BY MEC SIKHUMBUZO KHOLWANE ON PASSING OF BIODIVERSITY CHAMPION, MR ABE SIBIYA**

***Mbombela, Wednesday, 06 June 2018*** - It is with profound sadness that we learned about the passing of the long serving public servant and champion of biodiversity in the Province, Mr Abraham "Abe" Sibiya today.

Mr Sibiya is one of the pioneer administrators that the Mpumalanga Province entrusted with the responsibility to manage biodiversity and conservation programme and continued to excel in public duty until he was called to glory.

Those who were fortunate enough to work with and alongside him, will remember him as a soft spoken, uniquely humble and public servant extraordinaire who took pride in the protection of our natural endowments in the Province.

His highly illustrious career includes stints as Acting CEO of SANParks as well as Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency.

Mr Sibiya was, until this date, the Head of Conservation and Biodiversity in the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency and a true supporter of People and Park programme in the Province.

On behalf of our government, I would like to offer our condolences to the Sibiya family and his friends and colleagues at MTPA and SANParks.

He will be sorely missed.

**ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM, MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT**

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