

SPECIAL PROVINCIAL OFFICIAL  
FUNERAL SERVICE FOR

*Mr Ibrahim Ismail Ibrahim*



01 JULY 1937 – 06 DECEMBER 2021

**VENUE:** WESTPARK CEMETERY

# Special Provincial Official Funeral Service for Mr Ebrahim Ismail Ebrahim

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## Programme

### PART 1

- 14h00 **Programme Director:** Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, Minister of Tourism
- 14h05 Singing of National Anthem and Moment of Silence
- 14h10 Opening Prayer (Qari) Moosa Seedat
- 14h15 Video Tribute
- 14h20 Tribute by Wife: Ms. Shannon Ebrahim
- 14h30 Tribute by Daughter: Ms. Sarah Ebrahim
- 14h35 Tribute by ANC: Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma,  
Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
- 14h50 Reading of Obituary: Mr. Kadin Ebrahim and Yunis Shaik

### Part 2

- 15h00 Citation by SAPS Chaplain: Rev. Masotla
- 15h10 Eulogy: Mr. David Makhura, Premier of Gauteng
- 15h30 Announcements

### Part 3

Muslim Burial Rites

## OBITUARY OF AMBASSADOR MR EBRAHIM ISMAIL EBRAHIM

**E**brahim Ismail Ebrahim, joined the liberation movement as a young activist in 1952, and participated in the Congress of the People Campaign, which drew up and adopted the Freedom Charter in 1955. He was active in all the campaigns of the 1950s, and after the banning of the African National Congress in 1960, Ebrahim joined the armed wing of the ANC, Umkhonto We Sizwe in 1961, and became part of the Natal Regional High Command. He was arrested in 1963 and was Accused Number 1 in the Pietermaritzburg Sabotage trial, otherwise known as the "little Rivonia trial."

Ebrahim was sentenced to 15 years on Robben Island and served his sentence to the last day. He was released in 1979 and was immediately banned and restricted to his hometown in Durban. In 1980, as per instruction of the ANC, he went into exile. After spending time at the ANC head office in Lusaka, he underwent military training in the ANC camps in Angola. He was then deployed by the ANC leadership as the Head of the ANC's Political Military Committee in Swaziland. The ANC Senior Organ in Maputo decided that, as one of the senior leaders, he should be infiltrated into the country in January 1985, to assess the situation on the ground and make contacts with the underground units Durban. When the apartheid regime became aware of his presence in the country, he went into deep hiding for some months before being exfiltrated back into Swaziland.

In December 1986, Ebrahim was kidnapped from Swaziland by the South African National Intelligence Service on the orders of the apartheid regime's top brass and detained in John Vorster Square where he was severely tortured. He was charged for high treason in a highly publicized trial that lasted until 1989 and sentenced to a further 20 years imprisonment on Robben Island. He was one of the only political prisoners to serve a second sentence on the Island. In 1991, the appeal court ruled, in a landmark judgment, that his abduction from a foreign country was illegal, and that the South African court had no jurisdiction to try him. He was subsequently released from Robben Island in 1991.

In July 1991, Ebrahim was elected to the National Executive Committee of the ANC and he also became a member of the National Working Committee. He worked full time at the ANC head office Shell House and was tasked by Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu to establish the Patriotic Front. As the main convener of the Patriotic Front, Ebrahim brought together over 93 political, religious, community, cultural and civic organisations. The aim of the Patriotic Front was to achieve consensus on both the negotiation process and the final outcome of the negotiations that led to the establishment of a democratic South Africa. Ebrahim also participated in the CODESA negotiations as part of the security committee. Ebrahim remained a member of the NEC until 2017.

Ebrahim was elected a member of the National Assembly of Parliament in 1994. He was elected Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee and became a member of the Joint Select Committee on Intelligence. Ebrahim resigned from Parliament in July 2002, to take up the position of the Senior Political and Economic Advisor to the Deputy President.

Between 2003 and 2009 Ebrahim was involved in numerous conflict resolution initiatives around the world. He was invited on a number of occasions to participate in Norway's "Mediators Retreat." Among the conflict arenas he has worked in is Israel and Palestine, Kosovo, Sri Lanka, Colombia, Bolivia, Nepal, Madagascar, Burundi, the DRC, South Sudan, Zimbabwe, and the Central African Republic. Ebrahim became a Director of the conflict resolution NGO In-Transition Initiative (ITI) with Roelf Meyer.

Ebrahim served as the ANC's International Affairs Head from 2007 to 2009. In May 2009 he was appointed the Deputy Minister of International Relations, a position he held until 2014. He then served as the Parliamentary Counsellor to the President until 2019.

Ebrahim continued to mediate conflict throughout Africa and the globe with the ITI.

The President of South Africa awarded Ebrahim the military veteran's decoration in Platinum in 2012 in recognition of his sacrifices made to bring about peace, democracy, and freedom in South Africa. Ebrahim was also a recipient of the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award from the President of India in 2013 for exceptionalism in his field and bringing prestige to India. Ebrahim was also bestowed Spain's highest honor from King Felipe VI - the Order of Civil Merit - a knighthood at the rank of Knight Commander in 2015.

***Ebrahim passed away on December 6<sup>th</sup> at his home in Pretoria. He leaves behind his beloved wife Shannon, and children Sarah, Kadin and Cassia.***