

TO ALL MEDIA/ NEWS EDITORS

FRIDAY, 04 APRIL 2025

NYDA EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON TO GIVE AND ADDRESS AT THE 46TH COMMEMORATION CEREMONY OF SOLOMON KALUSHI MAHLANGU

On Sunday, 6 April 2025, the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) will join the Mahlangu Family in commemorating the life and legacy of Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu in Mamelodi, Tshwane.

Ms Asanda Luwaca, Executive Chairperson of the NYDA, will deliver an address during the ceremony, reflecting on Solomon Mahlangu's courage, his commitment to freedom, and his powerful legacy in the struggle for a democratic South Africa. The event will also provide an opportunity for attendees to reflect on the role of youth in continuing the work that Kalushi, and others, waged during the liberation struggle.

Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu was executed on 6 April 1979 at just 23 years old for his involvement in the anti-apartheid struggle as a combatant of uMkhonto weSizwe. He is remembered, not only for his bravery, but also for the conviction captured in his final words to his mother: "My blood will nourish the tree that will bear the fruits of freedom. Tell my people that I love them. They must continue the fight.

In line with Solomon's belief in education as a tool for liberation, the NYDA in 2014 launched the Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu Scholarship Fund (SKMSF). The Fund has since supported over 500 young South Africans, primarily from rural and underdeveloped areas, to access higher education in fields critical to national development such as law, commerce, engineering, IT, agriculture, and the sciences.

This year's commemoration will include a series of reflective activities. The program will be as follows:

- 06:30 – Visit to Kgoshi Mampuru Correctional Service Centre (Gallows Site)
- 09:00 - 12:00 – Mamelodi West Grave Site Ceremony (Tributes and reflections)

Through events like this, the NYDA reaffirms its commitment to preserving the legacy of Solomon Mahlangu and ensuring that the opportunities he fought for are available to today's youth. To further celebrate the achievements of SKMSF beneficiaries, the NYDA will host a Gala Dinner in May 2025 to showcase the successes of the scholarship and reaffirm its ongoing dedication to youth empowerment

Details of the gala dinner will be shared with the media and all relevant stakeholders in due course.

The NYDA invites media houses to the commemoration.

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