



NEHAWU

National Education Health & Allied Workers' Union

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MEDIA STATEMENT-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEHAWU STATEMENT ON THE PASSING AWAY OF UNCLE KATHY

The National Education Health & Allied Workers Union [NEHAWU] has learned with great sadness of the passing away of a revolutionary freedom fighter, Isithwalandwe, former leader of the African National Congress [ANC] and of the South African Communist Party [SACP], Ahmed Mohamed Kathrada.

Uncle Kathy's passing away after a long illness will forever remain a wound in the hearts and minds of South Africans because of the role he replayed in defeating the apartheid regime. Uncle Kathy joined the Young Communist League of South Africa [YCLSA] in 1941 at the tender age of 14 and dedicated his life to serving the struggle for freedom first in the Transvaal Passive Resistance Council and later in the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress where he fought gallantly for a just, classless and non-racial South Africa.

He believed in the idea of a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa and often spoke of concerted efforts to fight the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequalities.

While imprisoned at Robben Island he refused privileges that were reserved only for Indian and white prisoners. He identified himself as part of the collective and was very vocal in dismissing any form of racism.

After serving a lengthy prison sentence for high treason he continued to serve the people of South Africa especially the youth through the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation. He continued to advocate for a free Palestine and often condemned Israeli aggression as part of his contribution to international solidarity.

As NEHAWU we send our condolences to his family, his life partner Barbra Hogan and the entire Mass Democratic Movement [MDM]. We hope the current generation has learnt from Uncle Kathy and will take forth the struggle to build the type of society that Uncle Kathy believed in and was prepared to die for.

Lala Ngoxolo Uncle Kathy, indima yakho uyidlalile, The Struggle Continues!!!

Issued by NEHAWU Secretariat

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