

**SPEAKING NOTES FOR THE HONOURABLE KZN PREMIER, MR ES MCHUNU AT THE FUNERAL
OF THE LATE MTSHENGISENI “INDIDANE” GCWENSA**

Programme Director

Gcwensa Family

Friends and Relatives

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

I join the millions of fans, relatives and friends in paying my last respect to this King, Warrior of Maskandi. Mr Gcwensa, Indidane as he was commonly known. He was one amongst a galaxy of stars born in our province of KwaZulu-Natal.

Hailing from our beautiful Province, here at Umsinga, Indidane as he was affectionately known to many of his fans, he put our Province and Maskandi music to the map of the world. His music appealed to all of us, young and old. He will dearly be remembered.

When the news of the passing of this Multi-Award winning Maskandi star broke out, we knew that Gcwensa’s charming voice has fallen silent. Loud wails and laments could be heard from the hilltop, as local people flocked to his family to comfort them. Indidane and his music, was hugely popular right across the length and the breadth of our country. His music resonated very well with the whole listenership of our motherland, be it in concerts or on the radio. Like a true worrier, he fought right up to the end. Indidane was indeed, a shining star. Wherever he went, he was mobbed by crowds of Maskandi fans who called him the “King of Maskandi”

This is a giant that has contributed immensely to our music and our struggle, and I am convinced that all of us can agree that he played a tremendous role in modernising and popularising Maskandi, thus enhancing social cohesion. Indidane roared like a lion in the field of educational and inspirational lyrics, through his music he engaged with vigour amongst the music lovers, but he continued to humble himself before his peers. He was indeed a respectable musician of note. As a man, he kept his family fire burning. He remained in the

front line of the Maskandi since the formation of their band called Amagcokama in the early 2000. Since then he has won 18 awards and released about 25 albums. Who can forget his famous hits such as Diona, Viva Ngedidane, Awusilona Idlamanzi and Inyoni Yami. This is the man who was not very long on stage, but has accomplished a lot in this volatile music industry. He offered his life for the service to the people up to the last of his days, but above all, he served his constituency with distinction.

Much has been said during the week about the life and times of our icon. But, I must beg your indulgence, to add my voice to the multitudes around the country who have praised this humble servant of the people, as we bid the final farewell today. There was one Mtshengiseni Indidane Gcwensa, and I think he was just one of a kind. His selflessness, his dedication and unwavering commitment to serve our people by improving the quality of their lives through our own language. He enriched our culture, he mended the broken hearts, he enforced respect and humility and he justified the social struggle of mankind. He played a pivotal role in our quest for social cohesion. His music appealed to all, provinces and region. His unique dance moves, and provocative lyrics, will be solely missed. Indidane was a true son of the soil, he was indeed cut from the precious cloth as a gallant star and a leader in his own right.

There is no amount of oratory or eloquence that can succinctly capture just one still picture of the life and times of this hero and idol. His life was snuffed away from our midst in a twinkling of an eye. We all looked perplexed and dazed as we gazed in amazement as to why he was the one chosen to be the next in the line. Painfully, we came to understand that God, our Creator only look for the best candidate to fill the vacancy that may have been created in His Heavenly Place. When the death strikes in any family, we begin to discern the omnipotence of God, and we therefore then come to the realization that all of us face the same inevitable fate.

When I heard about the passing of Mtshengiseni “Indidane” Gcwensa, my heart bled. I could not believe what I have just heard because I thought Indidane still has a lot to offer us. To those who have been working with this Hero of our Province, know the calibre of the leader and the person he was. His energy and inputs will be forever be missed. As we mourn in silence of a beautiful melody he always produce, and the dimming of our bright star, lets us do so by recommitting ourselves to the values and principles that Indidane stood for. Let us commit ourselves to perpetuating his legacy. Indidane was a gallant star, a rising socio-

political activist through his music and a deeply committed person to changing the lives of others. He epitomised the zeal and understanding that men and women participate in the life struggle in their own right, and not to be free riders in order to achieve social justice.

Let us celebrate the life of a man who lived his life to the fullest.

At all material times, he touched a lot of lives through his lyrical content of his soulful music. He sang with passion and dedication, and you could easily be fooled that he was just looking through your heart. We have been robbed of a true caring servant.

As we bid farewell and join hands in committing his mortal remains to the soil, let us all answer to the clarion call of nation-building and social cohesion.

To the bereaved family; I would like to assure you that you are not alone in this dark hour. We share your loss and feel your pain. He has left an indelible footprint.

May you find comfort in the knowledge that Mtshengiseni lived his life with purpose and enriched many through his work.

On behalf of the Provincial Government of KwaZulu Natal, and its people, we say to the friends and family - especially his children: Akwehlanga Lungehlanga!

I thank you