

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**South African State Theatre to Honour the Life and Legacy of Seputla Daniel Sebogodi**

Pretoria, South Africa – The South African State Theatre joins the nation in mourning the passing of legendary actor, theatre practitioner, gospel musician, mentor and storyteller **Seputla Daniel Sebogodi**, whose extraordinary contribution to South African theatre, television and film has left an enduring legacy that will continue to inspire generations of artists and audiences alike.

In honour of his remarkable life and distinguished career, the South African State Theatre will host a **Memorial Service on Thursday, 23 July 2026 at 09:00**, providing family, friends, colleagues, members of the creative sector and the public with an opportunity to celebrate one of South Africa's most respected cultural icons.

For more than four decades, Seputla Sebogodi dedicated his life to the performing arts, earning admiration for his exceptional talent, versatility and unwavering commitment to storytelling. Although celebrated by millions through his unforgettable television performances, theatre remained the foundation of his artistic journey and the space where his passion for performance first flourished.

His commanding stage performances in productions including *Waiting for Godot*, *The Rivonia Trial*, *Once a Pirate*, *Mooi Street Moves* and *Black Moon*, his final stage production, established him as one of South Africa's most accomplished theatre practitioners. Every performance reflected his extraordinary ability to embody characters with honesty, depth and emotional authenticity.

Beyond the stage, Sebogodi became a household name through acclaimed television productions such as *Bophelo Ke Semphekgo*, *Scandal!*, *Rhythm City*, *The River*, *Lithapo*, *The Republic*, *Gomora*, *Broken Vows*, *Diamond City* and many others. His unforgettable portrayal of Kenneth Mashaba in *Generations* remains one of the most iconic performances in South African television history.

His contribution extended equally to cinema, with memorable performances in *Mr Bones*, *Beat the Drum*, *Critical Assignment*, *Hijack Stories*, *The Long Run*, *The Story of Racheltjie de Beer* and the internationally acclaimed *The Woman King*, demonstrating a remarkable ability to move seamlessly between stage, television and film.

Away from the spotlight, Seputla Sebogodi was a devoted father, passionate gospel musician and generous mentor whose guidance helped shape the careers of many emerging artists. His humility, professionalism and willingness to nurture young talent earned him the admiration and respect of colleagues throughout the creative industry.

His outstanding contribution to South African arts and culture was recognised through numerous accolades, including two South African Film and Television Awards, honouring a career defined by artistic excellence and dedication to the craft.

Speaking on behalf of the South African State Theatre, Chief Executive Officer Shane Maja said:

"Seputla Daniel Sebogodi was more than an exceptional performer. He was a cultural icon whose work enriched our stages, our screens and our national identity. His passion for storytelling, humility and commitment to developing future generations of artists will continue to

inspire the South African creative sector for years to come. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends and colleagues during this difficult time."

South African State Theatre Artistic Director Aubrey W. Sekhabi added:

"Seputla was one of the greatest actors of his generation and a true servant of the theatre. He possessed a rare gift of bringing honesty, depth and humanity to every role he performed. Beyond his extraordinary talent, he was a generous mentor who believed in nurturing young artists and preserving the integrity of our craft. South Africa has lost a theatre giant, but his legacy will continue to inspire every performer who steps onto a stage. We celebrate his remarkable life and honour the invaluable contribution he made to our nation's artistic heritage."

The memorial service at the South African State Theatre will serve as a celebration of a life dedicated to artistic excellence, cultural preservation and storytelling. It will provide an opportunity for the creative community and the nation to reflect on the immeasurable contribution Seputla Sebogodi made to South African arts and culture, while paying tribute to a man whose influence extended far beyond the characters he portrayed.

As the curtain falls on an extraordinary life, Seputla Daniel Sebogodi leaves behind far more than an exceptional body of work. He leaves a legacy of artistic excellence, a generation of performers inspired by his example and timeless stories that will continue to resonate for years to come. The South African State Theatre extends its heartfelt condolences to the Sebogodi family, friends, colleagues and the entire South African arts community during this time of profound loss.

Memorial Service Details

Pretoria Memorial Service

Date: Thursday, 23 July 2026

Time: 09:00

Venue: South African State Theatre, Pretoria

Polokwane Memorial Service

Date: Friday, 24 July 2026

Time: 12:00 – 18:00

Venue: Jack Botes Hall, Polokwane, Limpopo Province

Funeral Service

Date: Saturday, 25 July 2026

Time: 08:00

Venue: Jack Botes Hall, Polokwane, Limpopo Province

Burial

Silicon Cemetery, Polokwane, Limpopo Province

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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