EFF STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO FOUNDER JOSEPH SHABALALA

Tuesday, 11 February 2020

The EFF wishes to pass its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the founder of Ladysmith Black Mambazo Joseph Shabalala. This is truly a sad moment for all South Africans particularly the music industry which has lost a pioneer of traditional Zulu choral music.

As its founder, Shabalala led Ladysmith Black Mambazo into prominence, the group has played a significant role in promoting social cohesion through the arts and has brought national pride to South Africa by winning various international awards. Ladysmith Black Mambazo has won five Grammy awards to date and featured prominently in the soundtrack of the Disney classic animation The Lion King. Their music spoke to the social realities of black cultural norms and traditions, and was able to bring to light the social conditions of black South Africans.

The ability to thrive in the arts during the repressive Apartheid era and build a formidable unit such as Ladysmith Black Mambazo places Shabalala amongst the ranks of Hugh Masekela, Miriam Makeba, Sipho “Hotstix” Mabuza.

The EFF bids farewell to uBaba uJoseph Shabalala and thanks him for his contribution to South African music. May his soul rest in perfect, melodical peace.

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