



## **EFF STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF RENOWNED JAZZ MUSICIAN MUSA MANZINI**

Tuesday, 16 May 2023

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) has received the news of the passing of one of the most outstanding and celebrated jazz musicians, Musa Manzini. Born on the 30th of May 1971 in Inanda, KwaZulu Natal, Musa Manzini passed away on the morning of the 15 May 2023 at the Helen Joseph Hospital in Johannesburg after reportedly suffering a fatal seizure.

A highly talented and prolific artist, Musa was well known for his exceptional skills as a bass player and unwavering respect for the craft. It was in 1995, when he was bestowed a great honour and received the Professor Peter Klatzow composition and orchestration award.

Musa Manzini reflects the ability of the arts to find expression in the most difficult of circumstances, as he came from the township and was introduced to classical music at a tertiary level, having to analyse the music of Bach, Chopin, Mozart and Schonberg and other European composers.

He graduated with a BMus degree and spent three years as a part-time lecturer at the University of Cape Town, instructing both electric and acoustic basses, jazz theory and improvisation to bridging course students. At the same time he performed and recorded as a session musician around the country with fellow musicians such as Rene Mclean, Winston "Mankunku" Ngozi, Vusi Khumalo, Jimmy Dlodlu, Jonathan Butler, Gavin Minter, Nhlanhla Magagula, Kevin Gibson, Mark Goliath, Judith Sephuma, Elvin Dyers, Menyatso Mathole, Joe McBride, UCT Jazz Orchestra and many other musicians here in the country and abroad.

Manzini's style and sound has been honed by multi-faceted Cape Flats Music scene, mostly the township of Gugulethu, Langa, Athlone, Mitchells Plain and Khayelitsha.

Manzini played the bass as a lead instrument, pioneering in the footsteps of Spho Gumede, Stanley Clarke and John Patitucci. He was also well versed on the acoustic bass.

He has performed across the continent and overseas which has enabled him to be well-rounded as a musician. His musicianship is seen in albums New Reflections (2000), Tributes and Memories (2002) My Bass (2004) Simply Life (2007) the Best of Musa Manzini (2009) and many project in which he features various singers of the country.

Here dies a warrior, a kind and generous soul, a philosopher and one who had reached the highest peak of evolution as an artist.

May his Soul rest in peace

**ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS**

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