



EFF MOURNS THE LOSS OF PHOTOJOURNALIST PETER MAGUBANE

Tuesday, 02 January 2024.

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) joins the South African nation in mourning the passing of legendary photojournalist and anti-apartheid activist, Peter Magubane. Magubane's photography did not merely capture moments; it exposed the brutal realities of apartheid and ignited a global fight for justice.

Magubane was born in January, 1932, in Vrededorp, Johannesburg and his childhood unfolded in the vibrant streets of Sophiatown, a cosmopolitan suburb humming with jazz music and artistic energy. Here he later witnessed brutal displacement by the apartheid government, fuelling a passion for truth-telling that would later define his life.

His journey with photography began with a borrowed Kodak Brownie, capturing the essence of his community at a young age. This passion led him to Drum magazine, the beacon of black journalism in South Africa where he started as a driver in 1954, and soon made his way up to being a photographer.

Magubane went on to work for publications such as Rand Daily Mail and Time magazine, while his images have been featured in Life magazine, the New York Times, National Geographic, and Sports Illustrated, further solidifying his reputation as a leading voice in photojournalism.

Magubane fearlessly documented the horrors of racial segregation: his images, raw and powerful, exposed the everyday brutalities of the system – from the indignity of the "Europeans Only" signs to the stoic defiance of protestors facing tear gas and batons. His photo series "June 16," documenting the Soweto Uprising, was internationally acclaimed and remains a testament to the courage of the youth in the face of brutal oppression.

However, his art came at a price. In 1973, Magubane was falsely arrested under the Terrorism Act, spending 575 days in detention without trial. This experience only bolstered his resolve, and upon release, he continued to wield his camera as a beacon of truth, capturing the release of Nelson Mandela and the newly liberated South Africa.

Magubane's legacy, however, is not confined to the past as his photographs continue to serve as a stark reminder of the dangers of injustice and the necessity of resistance. They speak to the ongoing struggles against racism, inequality, and all forms of oppression across the globe.

The EFF sends its condolences to Magubane's family and former colleagues, may they find solace in this difficult time. We pledge to carry forward the torch he ignited, to fight for the complete dismantling of the apartheid legacy and the building of a truly just and equal society.



ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Sinawo Thambo (National Spokesperson) 072 629 7422

Leigh-Ann Mathys (National Spokesperson) 082 304 7572

✉ communications@effonline.org

🌐 <http://www.effonline.org>

🐦 @EFFSouthAfrica

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