HODZEKO
ARTS & CULTURE
ASSOCIATION

CONDOLENCE MESSAGE FOR PROF FRANK MBENGO

Hodzeko Arts and Culture Association (HACA) is deeply hurt and saddened by the loss of its Chief Advisor, Professor Frank Feresi Mbengo who died in South Africa on Sunday 10 September 2023 after a long illness. The Association has lost a revered arts and culture advisor. His death has left a huge vacuum. Mourners are gathered at Mbengo homestead in Chachacha (Donga), Shurugwi. He will be buried on a date yet to be announced.

Prof. Mbengo will be remembered for his superb advice, helping HACA affiliates such as High Voltage Poets to professionally use visual and performing arts as an advocacy tool and establishing a strong and diverse voice that represents the Zimbabwean Society.

He was appointed Hodzeko Advisor on the 5th of December 2019. Prof. Mbengo provided direction, sound and innovative advice on a wide range of issues, including developing strategies for issues on a long-term and large-scale basis to ensure timely and cost-effective delivery of results that ensure the best interests of the organization.

He played a pivotal role in analyzing and recommending delivery through, well-reasoned contributions, especially on policy recommendations, complex document analysis, substantive sections of reports and trainings, publications among other areas.

His influence and support can be found somewhere at the base and foundation of many Hodzeko's successful theatre productions such as Green Theatre Productions (GREENTHEP), radio advocacy programmes, COVID-19 awareness, etc.

The projects were focusing fighting against factors that contribute to environmental degradation, global warming, and the effects of COVID 19 to the environment and Climate Change, with intent to produce thought provoking literary and performing arts, actors, writers, and directors. The production led to the formation of a hilarious 20 episode radio play titled "Dangerous Bharanzi" which hit the air wave in 2020. The radio play which is in the process of being transformed into a television play was written by Siphosami Ndlovu and produced by Hodzeko Media Productions. It received airplay on Central Radio, a Midlands Provincial radio station.

Mbengo was a Professor in Development Studies and Political International Relations and Comparative Education. He worked as Permanent Secretary with the Natural Resources and Tourism Ministry in Zimbabwe before he left to serve as UNESCOs Education Advisor and Representative for various African Countries. Prof. Mbengo also taught at the University of Dar es Salaam and was Associate Director of the institute.

He was instrumental in the formation of the Zimbabwe Disability Inclusive Arts and Culture Festival (ZIDIAC Fest) to be officially launched in November 2023.

Issued by:

.....Mkoslek.....

MAVIS KOSLEK
BOARD CHAIRPERSON

CamScanner