



PAYING THEIR LAST RESPECTS: MEC Mlungisi Mvoko (pink shirt) with the wife of the deceased Buyelwa Ntlebi and pallbearers at the funeral service of struggle stalwart Malgid Ntlebi held at the East London City Hall. Picture: MICHAEL PINYANA

Ruling party stalwart laid to rest

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Hundreds of mourners gathered at the East London City Hall on Saturday morning for the funeral service of ANC stalwart and former Robben Island prisoner Malgid Ntlebi.

They were joined by his wife Buyelwa, family, friends and politicians.

Among those present were deputy minister of public works & infrastructure Noxolo Kiviet, MEC for finance, economic development, environmental affairs & tourism Mlungisi Mvoko, health MEC Si-

ndiswa Gomba, and Buffalo City Metro mayor Xola Pakati.

Ntlebi was born in the old West Bank in East London and joined politics during his teenage years. He was one of the ANC members who championed a protest against the injustices of the past.

In 1961, Ntlebi skipped the country to receive military training along with the likes of Khulile Mphahlaza, Mxolisi "Slumber" Jayiya and Papa Mbatyoti. They were arrested in Livingstone, Zambia, deported to Pretoria and sentenced to 12 years on Robben Island.

Tributes honouring the for-

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mer minister of social development came from his family, MK veterans and people from the sports fraternity.

Former ANC Mtyanti Msauli branch chair and BCM PR councillor Ncedo Kumbaca, who drove Ntlebi to branch meetings, described him as a "committed" person.

"In those five-minute drives, there was a lot I learnt from him. He was a passionate political educator. Every moment we spent with him we would get something about the history of the ANC and its role in society. He always encouraged us to speak our minds."