

Publication: Sunday Tribune - Main

Title: Former Newcastle mayor Mahlaba killed in jogging accident

Publish date: 05 Jul 2026

Page: 1

Reach: 14010

AVE: R 20468.45

Author: SANDILE

MDADANEsandile.mdadane@inl.co.za



TRAGEDY

Former Newcastle mayor Mahlaba killed in jogging accident

SANDILE MDADANE
sandile.mdadane@inl.co.za

THE ANC in KwaZulu-Natal has announced the sudden passing of senior party leader and KwaZulu-Natal legislator Dr Nkululeko Ntuthuko Mahlaba, who was killed in a road accident while jogging in Newcastle yesterday morning.

In a statement, the ANC said Dr Mahlaba, 44, died after he was struck by a vehicle during his routine morning run, describing his passing as a devastating loss to both the province

and the broader liberation movement. Dr Mahlaba, who was going to turn 45 on August 23, was rushed to hospital but succumbed to his severe injuries.

At the time of his death, Dr Mahlaba was serving as a Member of the ANC Provincial Task Team, a Member of the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature and Chairperson of Committees, commonly known as the Chair of Chairs.

The ANC provincial spokesperson Sifiso Sonjica said his death had left the organisation "frozen in disbelief". He described him as a dedicated

servant of the movement whose life was marked by commitment to public service and community development.

Dr Mahlaba previously served as Executive Mayor of Newcastle Local Municipality and later as KwaZulu-Natal MEC responsible for Sports, Arts and Culture as well as Public Works and Human Settlements.

He also held several senior leadership positions within the ANC, including regional chairperson of the Mbuso Kubbeka Region, former provincial treasurer and former chairperson of the ANC Youth League in KwaZulu-Natal.

A qualified medical doctor, Mahlaba balanced his medical career with political leadership, serving communities through public healthcare while championing socio-economic development and youth empowerment.

In May, Mahlaba attained a Master of Commerce in Leadership Studies at University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN).

The ANC credited him with strengthening the party's presence in northern KwaZulu-Natal and praised his leadership in government, particularly his commitment to infrastructure development, accountable governance

and parliamentary oversight.

The party extended its condolences to his wife, Dr Busi Mahlaba, their children, relatives, friends and colleagues, as well as residents whose lives he touched as both a healthcare practitioner and public representative.

The IFP, ActionSA and the DA sent condolences to the Mahlaba family and the ANC following the passing.

Dr Mahlaba ascended to the provincial structures of the ANC during the 2022 Taliban wave which swept through the party's elective conference clinching all five of the top positions.



DR Ntuthuko Mahlaba. | File