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MEDIA STATEMENT

MINISTER MACPHERSON MOURNS THE PASSING OF EWN ASSOCIATE EDITOR FOR POLITICS AND ICONIC JOURNALIST, TSHIDI MADIA

- Public Works & Infrastructure Minister Dean Macpherson has expressed profound sadness at the passing of EWN Associate Editor for Politics, Tshidi Madia.
- He described her as one of South Africa's most talented, iconic and respected journalists, admired for her professionalism, integrity, and fearless pursuit of the truth.
- Extending condolences to her family, colleagues, and friends, the Minister paid tribute to her humanity, kindness, and personal support, saying he will miss her deeply.

It is with profound sadness that the Minister of Public Works & Infrastructure, Dean Macpherson, extends his heartfelt condolences to the family, colleagues, and many friends of EWN Associate Editor for Politics, Matshidiso "Tshidi" Madia, who passed away on Wednesday morning. Throughout his interactions with Tshidi, the Minister said she always set an example of professionalism and kindness, which made her one of the most talented and iconic journalists in the country.

Minister Macpherson said Tshidi was more than a journalist; she was a formidable force in South African political reporting. Over nearly two decades, she earned her reputation as a powerhouse of professionalism, unwavering integrity, and fearless truth-seeking. She was widely acknowledged as "the jewel in EWN's crown", and her sharp, incisive approach marked her as one of our nation's most respected voices in media.

The Minister also wants to acknowledge the significant role she played in piercing through the paid-for campaign against him during his investigations into the Independent Development Trust (IDT) and the infamous oxygen plant tender. She asked critical questions and flagged journalism ethics at the time certain members and companies were sponsoring fake articles against the Minister. For this, she should be recognised for her bravery and determination to get to the bottom of the story.

"On behalf of the Department of Public Works & Infrastructure, and in my personal capacity, I express my deepest sympathy to the Madia family, Tshidi's EWN

colleagues, and the wider journalism community. Her legacy of fearless reporting, commitment to truth, and profound humanity will continue to shape our public discourse. She set the standard of excellence in journalism in South Africa, helping to cut through the noise and allowing us to better understand the world and our country with a distinct level of empathy. May her memory guide us all to serve our democracy with the same integrity and courage she displayed,” Minister Macpherson said.

“On a personal note, I am heartbroken by her sudden passing and will miss her immensely. There was never an interview I did with her that I did not prepare for ahead of time, as I knew she would be fair and honest in our conversation. And, after a thorough exchange, we would always share a laugh and a heartfelt moment. Her kind messages and calls checking up on me during tough times are what set her apart from the rest of the press corps. Rest in peace, dear Tshidi. We will continue to politrick in your memory.”

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