

VETERAN BENITO DIES IN WELKOM

09 Dec 2011

BEN Montshioa is no more.

Ben was a very dedicated family man and leader who contributed immensely to the struggle for a better life for all

The veteran politician succumbed to diabetes last Wednesday at Welkom Medi Clinic following a long struggle with the condition.

"Benito", as Montshioa was affectionately known by his friends, was born in Madubulaville location in Randfontein on July 28 1956.

He was the second child of Jacob and Selina Montshioa. After completing his schooling at Phahama Secondary, Montshioa worked for several companies in and around Randfontein.

Montshioa became deeply involved in politics and helped form the Mohlakeng Civic Organisation and the apartheid security police started to focus their attention on him.

Montshioa was subsequently forced to flee into exile. He went to Botswana then to Tanzania. In the early 1990s after the unbanning of political organisations, he became a councillor of Matjhabeng local municipality.

He served in different portfolios in the Matjhabeng mayoral committee, first as a member of the mayoral committee for housing, then local economic development.

Montshioa also served a stint as an MMC for monitoring and evaluation until he was a ward councillor of Ward 27 in Welkom from 2000 until early this year when he was deployed by the Free State department of agriculture.

The executive mayor of Lejweleputswa district municipality and former colleague of Montshioa, Mathabo Leeto, said: "Benito was a capable leader who was also my right-hand man when he was seconded here.

"When I was deployed to Matjhabeng, Benito held the fort with excellence.

"I want to thank the Montshioa family for bringing into our lives such a wonderful human spirit and a man who lived life to the fullest.

"Benito contributed immensely to local and provincial government and the African National Congress. May his soul rest in peace."

The executive mayor of Matjhabeng local municipality, Sebenzile Ngangelizwe, conveyed the council's condolences to the Montshioa family.

"Ben was a very dedicated family man and leader who contributed immensely to the struggle for a better life for all. He was a fearless leader and selfless revolutionary of our movement. May his soul rest in peace."

Montshioa will be remembered as a hard worker and a selfless person who assisted all the people he served, both as a leader of the ANC and a councillor.

He is survived by his wife Dipuo, three children Sello, Tshepo and Boitumelo, three grandchildren and nine siblings.

His funeral service will start at 8am at Kingdom Ministries in Flamingo Park, Welkom, before proceeding to Welkom Cemetery where will be buried.

[Source: www.sowetanlive.co.za]