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**TRIBUTE DELIVERED BY FANA JIYANE, CEO: FREEDOM PARK IN HONOUR  
OF REVEREND MOTLALEPULA CHABAKU AT HER MEMORIAL SERVICE AT  
REGINA MUNDI CATHOLIC CHURCH, SOWETO ON 17 MAY 2012**

On behalf of Freedom Park, let me express our deepest condolences to the family for the loss of their beloved daughter, sister, mother and grandmother. We feel honoured and indeed are thankful for having been afforded an opportunity on this sad day to participate in celebrating the life of Reverend Motlalepula Chabaku.

South Africa has equally lost a great and respectable liberation stalwart, who served this country throughout her life, from the age of 15, when she joined the ANC where she played a leading role in the youth and women structures.

Throughout her life, Reverend Chabaku established herself as a leader who stood by the people, especially women, the poor and the down-trodden. As a feminist, community leader, teacher and humanitarian, she never submitted to the extreme pressures of the apartheid government but strived to confront the insurmountable challenges faced by the people. Her unwavering stance against former regime is reflected in various speeches she uttered. In these speeches she relentlessly and gallantly exposed South Africa's atrocious conditions to the international community by urging them to participate in abolishing the Apartheid System. At the time of her death, she was one of the last surviving leaders of those brave women, such as Lillian Ngoyi and Helen Joseph, who marched to the Union Buildings on 9 August 1956, in Pretoria, to petition against the legislation that required African people to carry special identification documents.

Like the two leaders that I mentioned above, I am confident that after following due processes, Reverend Chabaku's name will also be honoured within the Wall of Names at Freedom Park, in acknowledgement of her selfless commitment and sacrifice to serve this country both during the apartheid era and also during the nurturing and building of our democracy.

Freedom Park was honoured to have Rev Motlalepula Chabaku as a member of its Interfaith Committee. This committee is not only responsible for leading inter-faith prayers that precede various ceremonial events of national importance at Freedom Park, but also plays a role in the support and counseling of those many individuals who lost their loved ones during the struggle for freedom and humanity. The Committee also ensures that the performance of prayers and rituals at Freedom Park are transparent, inclusive and diverse and that they reflect spirituality without giving prominence to any specific religion or faith. It is through this committee that we initiate dialogues between leaders of diverse faith and belief systems, encouraging them to lead by example in highlighting the role of the faith community in reconciliation, nation building, social cohesion, and indeed the deepening of our democratic values.

It is within this committee that Reverend Chabaku played a crucial role in creating an enabling environment for an inclusive and equitable recognition of the performance of inter-faith rituals and cleansing and healing in South Africa, which is in line with the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, to promote peace, reconciliation, and national and continental building as encapsulated in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

As a national icon that integrates history, culture, indigenous Knowledge and spirituality, Freedom Park also has programmes like the “dialogue between youth and elders” which serve as a forum to encourage the youth in their diversity to learn about their history, and heritage in order to engender a patriotic spirit. As an indication that Rev Chabaku was a versatile leader, in addition to her role within the Interfaith Committee which she executed with distinction, Reverend Motlalepula Chabaku also volunteered her time and shared knowledge and experiences with the youth and staff members of Freedom Park.

Mama Motlalepula Chabaku served Freedom Park without fail, and participated in various ceremonies and events until her untimely demise. We therefore bid farewell with a heavy heart, to a leader of our people who understood only too well the great responsibility that history had bestowed upon her. We pay tribute to a leader whose personal attributes and character will live on as an inspiration to all of us. All those who knew her will remember her for her strength, compassion and strong sense of community; her dignity, sincerity and affable manner, and her humble demeanour. Her spirituality and great passion for full liberation have enriched not only Freedom Park but the country’s understanding of duty and responsibility.

Lala ngoxolo.

Igalelo lakho kumzabalazo liyabonakala. Ugqatso ulufezile.