



MINISTRY OF TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Tourism Minister conveys condolences and tribute to late chef and author, Lesego Semenya

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Tourism Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi joins the South African public in conveying condolences to the family and close associates of award-winning chef and cookbook author, Mr. Lesego Semenya.

An exceptional ambassador of our country, Chef Semenya had an illustrious career in the hospitality industry and was celebrated both locally and internationally. His first cookbook titled, "Dijo: My Food, My Journey", became a bestseller after its release in November 2018.

Known for his passion for food and giving back to others through his craft, he has cooked for numerous public figures since starting his culinary journey. He obtained a Grande Diploma in Food and Wine and five other international level diplomas in wine and patisserie from the Prue Leith Chef's Academy. He had spent a year travelling nationally before enrolling to one of the best culinary schools, and has over the years remained a friend of tourism through various initiatives - merging both travel and food.

"We are saddened by the news and join other South Africans in mourning Chef Lesego's untimely passing. His contribution in the culinary landscape, remains an inspiration to many of us. As the former Top Chef South African judge, he has flown South Africa's flag on many other international stages and importantly, he was a vibrant voice and an inspiration for many people. South Africa has lost a true ambassador and innovator. Our thoughts are with his family and friends during this difficult period," said Minister Kubayi.

In his honour, we will continue to provide the necessary support to young South Africans to help them realise their dreams of becoming qualified chefs and successful entrepreneurs.

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