

## Tribute to David Viti (1940 – 2021)

*“Bra Dav was the most charming, intelligent, incredibly positive person I know. He was warm, strong & soft, a kind of yin and yang type of person. He loved his family, his community, and was a great community builder”* - Theo Mokomele, former colleague and friend.


David Viti was born in a place called KwaTyarha, in the Eastern Cape. He moved to Cape Town at an early age due to health complications. As with most marriages of the day, David’s family arranged his marriage to Linda, his wife of many years until his death on 30 July 2021. Together they raised 5 children and had 15 grandchildren.

David will always be remembered for his outstanding contribution to The Black Sash Advice Office, where he dedicated his services as an interpreter and paralegal advisor for many years. David and his late colleague, Lettie Malindi, were the bearers and imparters of first-hand knowledge concerning the brutal impact of the infamous Pass Laws, Piet Koornhof’s instigation of the Influx Control Laws, and more specifically the Section 10 laws which controlled the movement of black people in the Western Cape which was designated a ‘Coloured Labour Preference Area’. *“David knew the law inside and out and he taught us about the true meaning of these inhumane laws. He lived alongside them in number 62 Harlem Street, Langa”*, said Sally Christini, a friend and colleague.

Before working at the Black Sash Advice Office, David worked at Cowley House, in Woodstock, where families of political prisoners at Robben Island were given advice, financial help, drives around the peninsula, as well as accommodation. He even opened his own home to accommodate some of the families who had travelled from all over South Africa to visit their loved ones who were detained and imprisoned without trial.

After he stopped working for the Black Sash, David continued serving his community in various capacities. He tirelessly fought to establish the Langa Community Advice Office of which he was a founder member. Being wheelchair bound did not deter him from continuing his fight for justice and making sure that his community received care, legal advice, information, and freedom from gender-based violence.

David Viti was a politician. A true hero. A warrior for social justice. He just missed his 81<sup>st</sup> birthday. He was much loved and respected by the Langa community and his beloved wife, Linda, children and grandchildren.

Said his son, Anele, "Dad was a peoples' person, he was very supportive in terms of the life careers we chose as siblings. we learnt everything from him- from his work ethic to how to be a responsible citizen, a loving father, and a good husband. As a man of integrity, he always preached honesty. He never entertained short cuts; he believed that shortcuts always had unfavourable repercussions. He believed in giving kids an opportunity to get an education, as he believed it would broaden their horizons and make them better beings. Mom misses him  and still talks about him as if he passed on yesterday. We all dearly miss him too. He was a cool jam."

***"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself" –  
Joseph Campbell.***

***Rest in Eternal Peace, Qhawe.***