President Jacob Zuma and Mrs Tobeka Madiba-Zuma attend provincial funeral service of struggle veteran Mr. Riot Makhomanisi Mkhwanazi,11 December 2016.

**Durban, 11 December, 2016** – The President of the Republic of South Africa along with thousands of people gathered at the University of Zululand sports fields in KwaDlangezwa near Empangeni in KwaZulu-Natal on Sunday for the special sendoff for struggle veteran and uMkhonto we Sizwe member Riot Makhomanisi Mkhwanazi. Mkhwanazi, 83, died last Sunday. President Jacob Zuma read the eulogy.

*“Makhomanisi comes from a legacy of people who never accepted apartheid. His father Madonso Mkhwanazi was one of the first people who defied apartheid laws by burning his dompas in 1930 during the burning of the dompas campaign. Riot, followed in his footsteps. I knew him personally and valued him deeply as an older brother, a friend, prison mate, and disciplined comrade. I can attest to his bravery and resilience and dedication to the cause,"* he said.

President Jacob Zuma and Mr. Mkhwanazi spent 10 years together on Robben Island and worked together in exile afterwards. Mkhwanazi was awarded the Order of Mendi for bravery by President Zuma in 2014. The President praised Mkhwanazi for his years of dedicated service to the people of South Africa and his passion for political education and development programmes.

*“On his release from Robben Island, he continued where he left off in politics, demonstrating his struggle was only deferred while incarcerated. Today we lay to rest one of the best of our movement,”* Zuma said.

The President spoke for more than an hour, sharing emotive stories from their past, living the crowd of thousands laughing.

His family thanked the President and the First Lady of South Africa, Mme Tobeka Madiba-Zuma for providing Mr. Mkhwanazi with support over the years.

In attendance was over 3000 people including government officials, struggle veterans and extended family members.

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The Tobeka Madiba Zuma Foundation, founded in 2009, is an advocate for prevention, treatment and care of non-communicable diseases, a #cancersmart South Africa, TB and HIV prevention, treatment and care. For more information follow TMZ Foundation on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.