



Western Cape
Government

Health

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

REFERENCE:

ENQUIRIES: Nomawethu Sbukwana

EMAIL: nomawethu.sbukwana@westerncape.gov.za

TEL: 021 483 2627

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

E-mail: mppetersen@uwc.ac.za

RE: TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR DAVID SANDERS

The health community is poorer without Professor David Sanders; he dedicated more than 40 years of his life in policy development, research, advocacy, lobbying, and teaching, to promote primary healthcare, health equity, and health as a human right. He was a true public health activist.

I was fortunate to have worked with him at the University of the Western Cape (UWC), he taught us that it's possible to be an internationally recognized scholar, a senior academic and a Professor, but still be humble enough to be a people's person.

I bumped into him on several platforms across Africa through PHM where we would be engaging with communities under a village tree reminding them that "Nothing about us, without us", and the same David would address a conference of international scholars. He would jokingly say, I am a spy for Sue, I am following her. Prof Sue Fawcus, is his wife, whom I worked closely with on maternal health, we were both representing Western Cape Health on SA saving mothers, a ministerial appointed committee by NDOH.

Community participation was his mantra, I joined him on several protests. Interestingly, I was greeted by the very same protests on my first day as the MEC for Health. PHM handed memorandum on community involvement at WCGH.

At end of Winter school short courses at UWC, he would open up his home in Kennilworth and invite all of us, including students, for drinks and dance. I am one of those who partied all night long at his home

His absence at this year's PHASA annual conference was felt, the loss was tangible when the conference rose for a moment of silence, suddenly the hall was filled with sadness and you could tell that a great tree has fallen. I could not resist starting my key note address by honouring his memory and shared about the Professor Sanders I know, a lover of life and a lover of people.

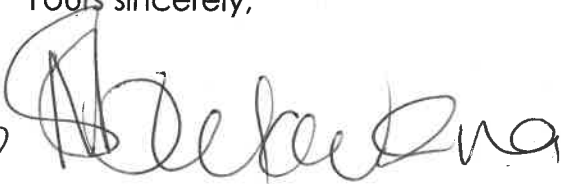
He shared his vision, promoted and encouraged young health professionals to choose the option of health for all, he was a consummate public health professional who understood his calling. He served with great love and respect for all people.

We are fortunate that he has left us with a rich compilation of his writings to inform future generations. His ideas will live forever and he will be greatly missed.

I pray for Prof Sue Fawcus and their children to find comfort in this difficult time.

May his kind soul rest in peace.

Yours sincerely,


P.P

DR NOMAFRENCH MBOMBO

WESTERN CAPE MINISTER OF HEALTH

DATE: