



THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LABOUR COUNCIL

MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE TO THE SHIKWAMBANI FAMILY

19 May 2007

On behalf of NEDLAC community, I wish to extend our deepest and heartiest condolences, to the family of Shikwambani and to Sibongile Pheeha in particular. We are particularly saddened by the untimely passing on of Mrs Shikwambani, simply because we know that a loss to Sibongile, who is an invaluable figure of NEDLAC, is a loss to all of us at NEDLAC.

When we learnt of the news, it was on a weekend and interactions and preparations to come and showcase the morale support as her third family were already underway. This has therefore evidenced how much she means to us, how much we value her, how much we wanted to show our support and our "collective" sense of loss and grief.

We are very much mindful of how much Bongie's mother meant to her. We also mindful that a household without a mother do most of the time runs short of the warmth and comfort that many of us enjoy when we have these wonderful figures next to us, at all times. The fact that Mrs Shikwambani passed on Sunday, 13 May

2007, a day popularly known as the mother's day is not only a coincidence but a symbolic gesture to how meaningful her motherhood was.

Since we have known Sibongile, we had no doubt in our minds, that thee who has brought her to life is an exceptional and humbled human figure. It is a second nature with us Africans, that to determine the caliber and personalities of somebody's parents, you do not need anybody telling you but simply look at the resonance in the child's personality.

With this token of condolence, our messages of support and our presence here today, we are simply saying.....*ha mi chavelela eka ku siya hi manana thlelo kokwana.....*we share your grief and commit to give our own Bongie all the necessary support as she overcomes her loss.

I thank you.

Herbert Mkhize

Executive Director: NEDLAC