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## KZN SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE MEC DR NTUTHUKO MAHLABA SADDENED BY THE PASSING OF EYADINI FOUNDER MJAY

MEC Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba and the entire KZN Sports, Arts, and Culture family and community unite with countless Umlazi residents, KwaZulu-Natal citizens, and fellow South Africans to deeply mourn the loss of Jabulani Thamsanqa Zama, the visionary behind Eyadini.

Fondly known as Mjay or Jigga Money, Zama's passing due to a stroke marks a somber moment in time. He will forever be celebrated for igniting the local nighttime scene and entertainment landscape of Durban with his legendary gatherings and gracious hospitality.

His establishment, Eyadini, not only drew revelers from across the nation but also played a pivotal role in cultivating a dynamic arts and cultural legacy within Durban and KwaZulu-Natal.

Throughout the years, Zama transformed Eyadini from a modest township watering hole into a household name within the realm of township entertainment.

"The Government and the Department stand bereaved by his untimely departure, as it leaves an irreplaceable void. In this period of darkness, our heartfelt condolences extend to his family, friends, business partners, and all those whose lives were touched by the presence of Mjay," said Mahlaba.

Under Mjay's guidance, Eyadini became a hub that drew athletes, sportsmen, musicians, both seasoned and emerging talents alike. His patronage nurtured and guided the growth of DJs, influencers, dancers, photographers, and videographers, all converging at Eyadini to showcase their innate abilities. Mahlaba said Mjay's arms were wide open for all.

"His indelible impact was that of a trailblazing entrepreneur, leading the charge in uplifting artists and their craft. His vision for revitalizing the Umlazi township economy set a benchmark for all to follow. Operating a business like his required a high level of



adherence to regulations and compliance and; not once did he transgress any by-laws or business zoning codes. Meticulous in his approach, he ensured that his business harmoniously coexisted with his neighbors, a testament to his conscientious stewardship," Mahlaba observed.

Issued by KwaZulu-Natal Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for more information please contact Mr Nathi Olifant, Media Liaison Officer (KZNDSAC) – 072 292 2502 email: <u>naolifant@gmail.com</u>

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