

Message of Condolences

Programme Director,

We have gathered here to pay tribute to a comrade who was instrumental in the liberation of our people especially here in the city of Durban.

On behalf of the people of eThekweni Municipality and its Council leadership, I would like to send my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Paddy Kearney.

We are saddened by the loss of a leader who dedicated his life to fighting injustices of apartheid, and a champion for the poor. Paddy through his life, he epitomises grace, integrity, humility and compassion; an astute and visionary campaigner working for peace and justice.

Cde Paddy was kind, quiet and soft spoken person with a warm and generous spirit. Even though, he was soft spoken but he spoke truth at all times. He never shouted like the rest of us but chose to lower his loving voice. His words were sharper than a double-edged sword. He confronted the brutality of the system and protected many comrades from the dark forces of the apartheid.

He was a dedicated servant of God who demonstrated his love for his people and his country through his selfless service to humanity.

In addition to his work at the helm of Diakonia, as well as serving on a myriad of NGOs, boards, organisations and civil society bodies. Working with eminent leaders such as Archbishop Hurley and other leaders of faith the contributed in keeping the flame of freedom alight thus encouraging those who were powerless to fight on while it counseled and supported those who were brutalized and tortured. Diakonia has become a centre for education and a home for campaigns against social ills, the fight against HIV and AIDS, the abuse of women and children as well as against domestic violence.

As the city we will continue with our fight against HIV and Aids as we approach the world aids day this Saturday. In line with 2018 campaign, we encourage the public to go test. We want people to check if they have TB or HIV status, also to check their CD4 count, sugar level, BP and all sickness. It is important that we know our status and also take your medications.

In memory of Cde Paddy, let us heighten the fight against women and children abuse. Sekwanele. We strongly condemn the incident that took place at Durban Magistrate court. No one should die or be killed. What is shocking is a policeman that kills a woman in a magistrate court. We welcome the announcement made by Minister of Justice (Mike Masutha) and Minister of Police (Bheki Cele) to look into the matter. The abuse of women must stop now!

Programme Director,

This is the reason we saw it befitting for us to honour him with a Living Legend award and his good deed will continue to live with us. As the city, we recognise the greatness achieved by past or current residents of eThekweni in various fields of human endeavour, while they are still living. These Awards acknowledge individuals

with outstanding achievements, and those who have demonstrated a sustained and extraordinary contribution to our legacy, in various categories of expertise.

To us, Cde Paddy was a legend and he will remain a legend when he is no more. His good deeds and legacy shall remain with us.

We will continue to learn and follow in his footsteps by ensuring that the poor and marginalised are taken care of as this caring city. May his soul rest in eternal peace – hamba kahle Paddy.