

ANC WOMEN'S LEAGUE



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ANCWL NTT STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF COMRADE FRENE GINWALA

The African National Congress Women's League (ANCWL) has described the late Dr. Frene Ginwala as a dedicated and devoted leader who made an indelible contribution to not only the struggle for liberation but for the process of reconstruction and transformation to democracy.

Comrade Ginwala passed away on Thursday, the 12th of February 2023 at her home.

In paying tribute to the renowned activist's life, the ANCWL said that Comrade Frene was a prolific scholar, lawyer, journalist and activist, and was part of the 'golden generation' of revolutionary activists who dedicated their lives to the fight for a non-racial, non-sexist, just and democratic South Africa.

ANCWL NTT Convenor, comrade Baleka Mbete said: "We are indebted to her and her generation for the unrelenting war they waged against oppression and marginalisation of blacks in general and Africans in particular in the country of their birth."

Comrade Baleka added that amongst her many acts of service and sacrifice, the country will remember the instrumental role she played facilitating the escape out of the country for many comrades, amongst them notably Comrade Oliver Tambo, the longest serving President of the ANC.

Together with Comrades OR, Yusuf Dadoo and others, Comrade Frene was instrumental in the establishment of the ANC in exile and garnering support for the anti-apartheid movement from the international community. "Through the establishment of the journal, Spearhead, and her editorship of The Standard at the request of Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, she used her sharp pen and incisive voice to focus the world's attention to the South African cause for freedom.", Comrade Baleka Mbete further said.

Following her return from exile, Comrade Frene was at the forefront of the establishment of the Women's National Coalition (WNC) that brought together women from diverse political divides to draw up the Women's Charter to confront gender discrimination and the barriers to women's full emancipation. It was during this process that Comrade Frene argued that "inclusivity was a

strategic thing on the part of women in the ANC” and that the Constitution of a democratic South Africa could not be drafted by the ANC without the support of women.

As the ANCWL and as a nation, we remember with pride how Comrade Frene’s studious and inquiring nature guided her as the founding Speaker of our first democratic Parliament. She was unrelenting in her pursuit of fundamental transformation of that august house to one that would truly be in service of all the people. She led Parliament with foresight, dignity and unwavering commitment to promoting and upholding democracy, good governance and the advancement of human rights. She also paved the way, and normalised the existence of women in apex positions and as key players in democracy-building and decision-making.

The African National Congress Women’s League offers heartfelt condolences to Comrade Ginwala’s family, comrades, colleagues and many associates that her life has touched in South Africa and beyond.

Rest in peace Madam Speaker, you were of service to your country and her people with the utmost level of dedication.

MALIBONGWE!!!

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