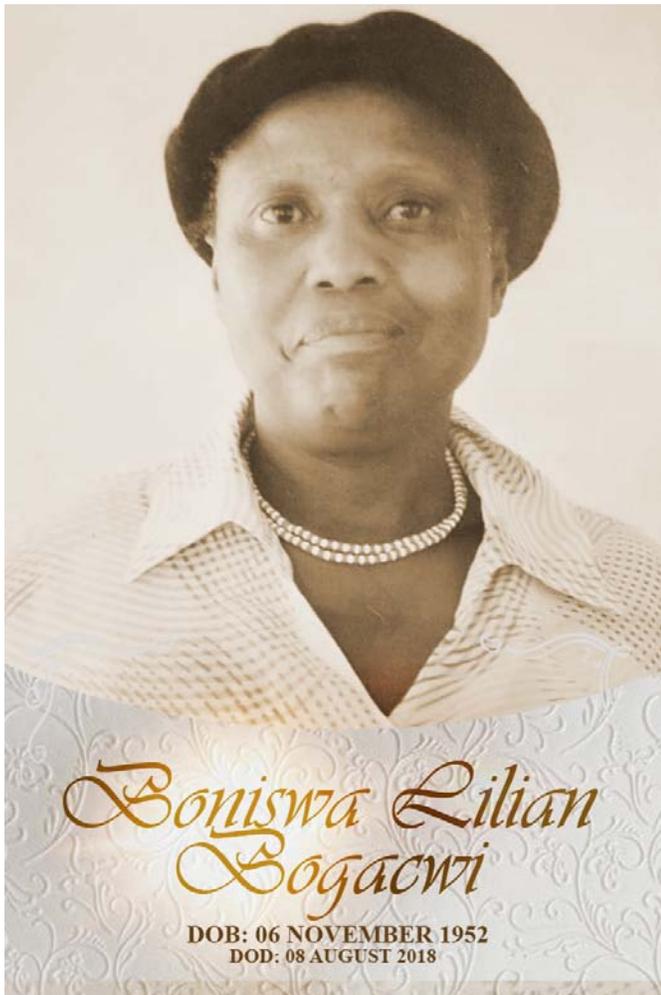


# RUSTENBURG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

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## TRIBUTE TO THE LATE FORMER COUNCILLOR MME LILIAN BOGACWI: 13/ 08/2018



Boniswa Lillian Bogacwi succumbed to prolonged ill health on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018. Her mortal remains are to be cremated in accordance with her wishes which she meticulously dictated to her children. Just the mere mention of her name evokes memories of an irrepressible and effervescent woman whose boundless energy to serve the community was not only contagious but legendary. It was unsurprising that she had no tolerance for any laggard that crossed her path.

She was a driven woman who seemed to have wholeheartedly imbibed Myles Munroe's famous words 'the greatest tragedy in life is not death but life without a purpose' At the time of her overwhelming election as a Councillor for Ward 20 Boitekong in the year 2000 her reputation as a community activist and leader was enormous. Working under the auspices of the Boitekong police station and Captain Ramatswele, Mme Lilian served as the secretary of the Community Policing Forum and attained a Provincial award for excellence service. This came hot on the heels of her election as a member of the School Governing Body of Letsibogo Primary School.

Education of the African child was undoubtedly her lifelong passion. Whether it be as a school administrator, a musical teacher and choir conductor who performed admirably in regional competitions Mme Lilian was in her element in a school environment. What a gifted teacher she was! She took to the front of the classroom like a fish to the water exuding confidence and eloquence that all her students found refreshing, inspiring and much more. Itereleng Community crèche in Boitekong and Kgamanthane High School in Moruleng benefited immensely from her administrative skills where she served as the centre manager. Both the Rustenburg and Mankwe education sub districts were blessed to have Mme Lilian as an administrator. Much earlier in the early 1990s, the Bakgatla Ba Kgafela made good use of her administrative capabilities. This endeared her to the Royal family. The early 1990s was a tumultuous period in South Africa. The release of Nelson Mandela and other freedom fighters was a sure signal that

the winds of change were sweeping across South Africa. But Bantustan leaders like Lucas Mangope were determined to hold on to power at all cost. The Bantustan regime became more and more repressive and Lilian Bogacwi was part of a group of activists in Moruleng that bravely resolved to confront the status quo. It was only a matter of time before she got entangled in an open confrontation with the Bophuthatswana police. This fateful day arrived in 1993 after she helped organise a meeting of the ANC Youth League at the Moruleng tribal office. All liberation movements were still banned within the borders of Bophuthatswana.

The regime brought the might of its brutal police to break up the meeting. They did more than just breaking up the meeting. All the activists present at the meeting including Mme Lilian were not only subjected to a merciless beating with sjamboks but were also confined to incarceration at the Mogwase Police station. So brutal was the beatings meted that one young activist Sojane lost his manhood. Sojane never fully recovered and ultimately lost his young life a few years later. The incarceration at Mogwase police seemed to have stoked the fires of political activism within her even more vigorously. After her release from Mogwase Police station she thrust herself even further in the struggle for freedom and democracy especially in the Bophuthatswana Bantustan. She was one of the proud midwives that ushered in democracy during the 1994 elections. So involved was she in preparations towards the historic elections of 1994 that she was selected into many structures that provided voter education across the Bojanala District.

After 1994 elections she settled in the area of Boitekong and became one of the most prominent political activists in Rustenburg rising to occupy numerous leadership positions. It was only a matter of time that Mme Lilian would become a Ward Councillor of the Rustenburg Local Council in the year 2000. She was elected together with quite an illustrious cohort of Councillors who were well respected across the Province. Thabo Mabe was elected the Executive Mayor that year and the late Dipuo Seduke was elected the Speaker. Other well-known Councillors at the time included: the late Pam Lediga, Louisa Mabe , Matthew Wolmarans Abner Matlhoko, Sheila Mabale, Martie Kuhn( former Mayor), Voslo ,Phistos Mekgwe, Sammy Lebelo, Ambrose Sekotlo, Tshepo Maifala, Lebogang Molefe, Jabulile Nxumalo, Jan Mc Lachlan, Jan Van Eeden , Dr P Swart, Don Seemise and many others.

During her tenure development in Boitekong increased at a phenomenal phase . Houses were built in Boitekong Extension 2, major infrastructure upgrades such as roads, sewer, electricity and others unfolded in the greater Boitekong. She was instrumental with the likes of Councillor Pogiso Bothomane in the establishment of Boitekong Ext 8. Mme Lilian developed a close bond with the well-read Councillor Bothomane who regarded her as a mother figure in his life. At the end of her tenure Boitekong Extension 8 was on the verge of receiving a major boost of construction of thousands of RDP houses. The Wa wina campaign designed to encourage communities to pay for services was extremely successful in Boitekong due to her enthusiasm and drive. She served her constituency diligently and selflessly for the entire term, devoting a lot of her time to many causes that advanced women empowerment. Between 2011 and 2016 she served as the ward secretary in ward 20 Boitekong. During this period she also mentored many young leaders in Boitekong

She is survived by her loving husband George Bogacwi, children Lungile and Buyiswa and grandchildren Lerato, Karabo, Paballo and Noka

**Rest in PEACE UNoZulu UMpafana. Your life was indeed lived with much purpose...**

**Clr Mpho Khunou**  
**Executive Mayor**  
**Rustenburg Local Municipality**