



AZAPO
AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION

22 October 2023

**MEDIA STATEMENT ON THE PASSING ON OF BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS
STALWARD REVEREND BASIL MANNING**

TO: ALL MEDIA HOUSES

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL – AZAPO

It is with great sadness that we announce the untimely and tragic passing on of one of the most decorated stalwarts of our movement, Basil Manning. Manning died on Saturday. He had been ill.

Manning was the first chairperson of the interim Central Committee of the exiled Black Consciousness Movement of Azania when it was launched in London in 1980. He dedicated all his life to serving the Azanian people. He was totally committed to the Azanian revolution and had an unwavering position to the total liberation of the Black people and the return of the land to its rightful owners, the Azanian people.

While some of his generation chose to align with those who had hijacked the revolution to usher in a neo-colonial set-up in semi-liberated Azania, Manning and the rest of his comrades in AZAPO remained unshaken in their quest for the return of the land and the control of the economy in our country.

He was an epitome of Black Consciousness and an exhibit of the unity of Black people across ethnic divisions of Africans, Indians or Coloured. For Manning, Black people were those who were discriminated and oppressed as a group by the racist and settler-colonial regime.

In his message of tribute, the honorary President of AZAPO Mosibudi Mangena, who succeeded Manning as Chairperson of the exiled BCMA, said: "When the Reverend Basil Manning was elected the first Chairperson of the BCMA in London in 1980, I was serving a five year banning order in Mahwelereng, Mokopane. I had no clue who he was.

"I succeeded him as Chairperson of the BCMA in 1982 and that was also the year I met him. He had relocated to Botswana from the UK with his young family to do some theological work, which he combined with community development in communities.

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He was a down to earth man, deeply committed to freedom, justice and fairness, and it was clear he wanted his young family to connect, blend, identify and fully imbed themselves in the communities of Botswana. He unflinchingly committed himself to the struggle for freedom in his country. He was an uncomplicated freedom fighter, sincere and honest to a fault.

“On his return to South Africa, he completely identified himself with the struggles of his people through AZAPO. His death is loss for South Africa and its people.”

AZAPO sends condolences to his family and all those close to him. AZAPO will honour the memory of this gallant son of the soil by continuing waging the struggle for the return of the land to the Azanian people.

Issued by AZAPO

End

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