



## **MOGAMBERY 'MONTY' MOODLEY**

Born: 12 December 1949 - Died: 31 August 2009.

**The Daily News of the 3 September reported after the funeral of Monty as follows:**

“Members of the legal fraternity, politicians, and police officers streamed into the Clare Estate Crematorium yesterday, to pay tribute to Monty Moodley, head of the KwaZulu-Natal Asset Forfeiture Unit.

“Speaker after Speaker spoke of his passion for his work, his love for his family and his courage as an anti-apartheid activist. Monty, 59, died on Monday, contracting an infection after an operation for colon cancer. He leaves behind his wife Fawzia, his three children Shivan, Nikhail and Narushka.

**In a memorial tribute handed out at the funeral, a message from Fawzia to her husband read:**

"My love, my life, my friend, my love, you have wrenched out and taken away a part of me, rest in peace my darling. I will love you until eternity."

**Moodley's daughter Narushka Moodley-Reddy's message read:**

"A line in the song of Charlie Chaplin says 'I smile even though my heart is breaking'. My beautiful daddy, even though my heart is breaking I smile to celebrate your life and thank you for being my incredible father."

**Reading a letter to his father, Moodley's eldest son, Shivan, said:**

"I am proud of you, I am proud to be your son. You were so highly regarded. I want to be just like you."

He said stories of his father's generosity were legendary and the only way he could do justice to his memory was to live his own life with dignity.

**Shamila Batohi, the Director of Public Prosecution in KwaZulu-Natal, recalled** that when she first became the head of the Scorpions in the province as a woman of colour, in what was 'supposedly a position of power' she faced many challenges.

"During those many challenges I knew I could always turn to Monty to listen to me and to offer advice."

Batohi said he was a highly principled man who was passionate about fighting crime.

"I will miss you, the National Prosecuting Authority will miss you, but the criminals won't" said Batohi

She credited much of the success of the Asset Forfeiture Unit in the province to Moodley's leadership.

**Willie Hofmeyer, Deputy National Director of Public Prosecutions** who met Monty while setting up the Asset Forfeiture Unit in 1999 said Moodley wanted to make a difference in the lives of ordinary people.

He ascribed much of the success of the Asset Forfeiture Unit in the province to Moodley's exemplary leadership.

Hofmeyer recalled that Moodley was happiest when he had a drug dealer in his sights.

**Judge Thumba Pillay and Deputy Minister of Public Service and Administration Roy Paddayachee spoke of his involvement in the ANC and his dedication to the party and his family.”**

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Fawzia, Monty’s wife has been left the job of raising her three children and grandchild alone. She has been left without her ‘man for all seasons’

The funeral was very emotional. The children were bereft and Fawzia was not in a position to comfort them. Most of the family were inconsolable, so too his comrades.

**Sam Moodley, his first cousin and comrade read the following poem at the funeral:**

**DEATH IS NOTHING AT ALL**

by Henry Scott Holland

I have only slipped away into the  
next room.

I am I, and you are you,  
Whatever we were to each other,  
that we are still.

Call me by the old familiar name.  
Speak to me in the easy way which  
you always used.  
Put no difference into your tone.

Wear no forced air of solemnity or  
sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed  
At the little jokes that we enjoyed  
together.

Play, smile, think of me, pray for  
me.

Let my name be ever the  
household word that it always  
was.

Let it be spoken without an effort,  
Without the ghost of a shadow  
upon it.

Life means all that it ever meant.  
It is the same as it ever was.  
There is absolute and unbroken  
continuity.  
What is this death but a negligible  
accident?

Why should I be out of mind  
because I am out of sight?  
I am but waiting for you, for an  
interval,  
Somewhere very near,  
Just round the corner.  
All is well.

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Paddy Harper in the Sunday Times (6/9/09) describes Monty as 'A humanitarian to the very end'.

OBITUARY

S. Times

6/9/2009

## A humanitarian to the very end

### PADDY HARPER

MOGAMBERY “Monty” Moodley, head of the KwaZulu-Natal Asset Forfeiture Unit and anti-apartheid activist, died in Durban on Monday after an operation for colon cancer.

Moodley, 59, was a lifelong humanitarian who put the needs of others ahead of his own.

After finishing school, he studied law in Durban and became involved in community and political struggles, joining the Black Consciousness Movement in the early 1970s.

A cultural and sports activist from an early age, he became involved in guerilla theatre, penning and staging several hard-hitting plays, including *Feed and Condemned*.

His political and social beliefs drew him into the anti-collaboration movement, and he opposed the South African Indian Council (SAIC) and the House of Delegates, used by the apartheid regime to give Indians second-class rights and a qualified franchise.

It was his humanity and fierce belief in the unity of the oppressed that motivated him throughout his life.

Through his community involvement, he became involved in the Charterist movement, eventually joining the ANC and its above-ground structures inside the country in the 1980s.

His Isipingo legal practice also became a tool of struggle. He was constantly engaged in cases representing victims of apartheid.

During the political violence that ravaged KwaZulu-Natal in the early 1990s, his legal interventions saved many lives in townships south of Durban and he was active in the National Association of Democratic Lawyers.

When the ANC was unbanned in 1990, he was elected chairman of its Isipingo branch and served on the Southern Natal regional executive committee. He was also on the ANC's parliamentary list.

After the 1994 elections, he decided to close his lucrative practice and take up public service.

It was this route that took him into the Asset Forfeiture Unit.

Moodley dealt with a series of high-profile cases throughout KwaZulu-Natal, getting results against drug dealers, corrupt civil servants and businessmen by identifying and removing assets they had generated through crime.

His funeral on Wednesday was testimony to the type of life he had lived: cabinet ministers rubbed shoulders with carpenters; businessmen with bricklayers.

The deputy minister of public service and administration, Roy Padayachie, who addressed the funeral, said: “Monty had a real commitment to his beliefs. He sacrificed a very lucrative legal career as a private attorney and pursued the belief that post-liberation there was a need to support the new democracy by becoming a public servant.”

“He translated this commitment by demonstrating what a public servant should be, fighting corruption and criminality, particularly through his passion against drug dealers.

“A really outstanding feature about Monty was his humanity, the way he got on with people, irrespective of their political views. He was a congenial character, very humble and totally unassuming.

“In many ways, the political movement has not given adequate recognition to his talent and his contribution.

“He built a multi-cultural home, and his family represented the kind of history and commitment to the new democracy for which he stood.

“Monty believed that the welfare and struggles of the Indian and African communities could not be separated.”

Moodley is survived by his widow, journalist, Fawzia, sons Shivaan and Nikhail, and daughter Narushka.

Thank you  
Monty for your  
exemplary life  
in the service of  
our people!  
Hamba Kahle  
Comrade!

Phyllis Naidoo  
Durban  
7/11/2009