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# *Joseph Shabalala, Ladysmith Black Mambazo Founder, Dies at 78*

As National Public Service Workers Union we are deeply saddened by the passing of ubaba Bhekizizwe Joseph Siphathimandla Mxoveni Mshengu Bigboy Shabalala and wish to extend our condolences to the Mshengu family, relatives and love ones.



**Ladysmith Black Mambazo founder Joseph Shabalala. Photograph: CHAD RACHMAN/APP**

Well known for his bass vocals, Joseph Tshabalala started the group in 1960 with his brothers and his cousins. Shabalala was South Africa's best songwriter, founder of the Ladysmith Black Mambazo, who made Zulu music to be listened globally.

With songs like homeless, Diamonds on the Soles of Her Shoes, Nomathemba and many more, the Ladysmith Black Mambazo group have managed to travel all around the world, recording with international artists and win locally and international awards.

The 78 year old suffered from illness which also resulted to his having to under go several surgeries. His son Sibongiseni Shabalala took over as lead of the group as his father could no longer travel.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo's music brought nothing but peace and calmness, as their music has a message which is informative and easy to relate too.

Joseph Shabalala leaves behind his wife, brothers, children and grand children. May his soul rest in eternal peace as his music will keep us entertained forever.