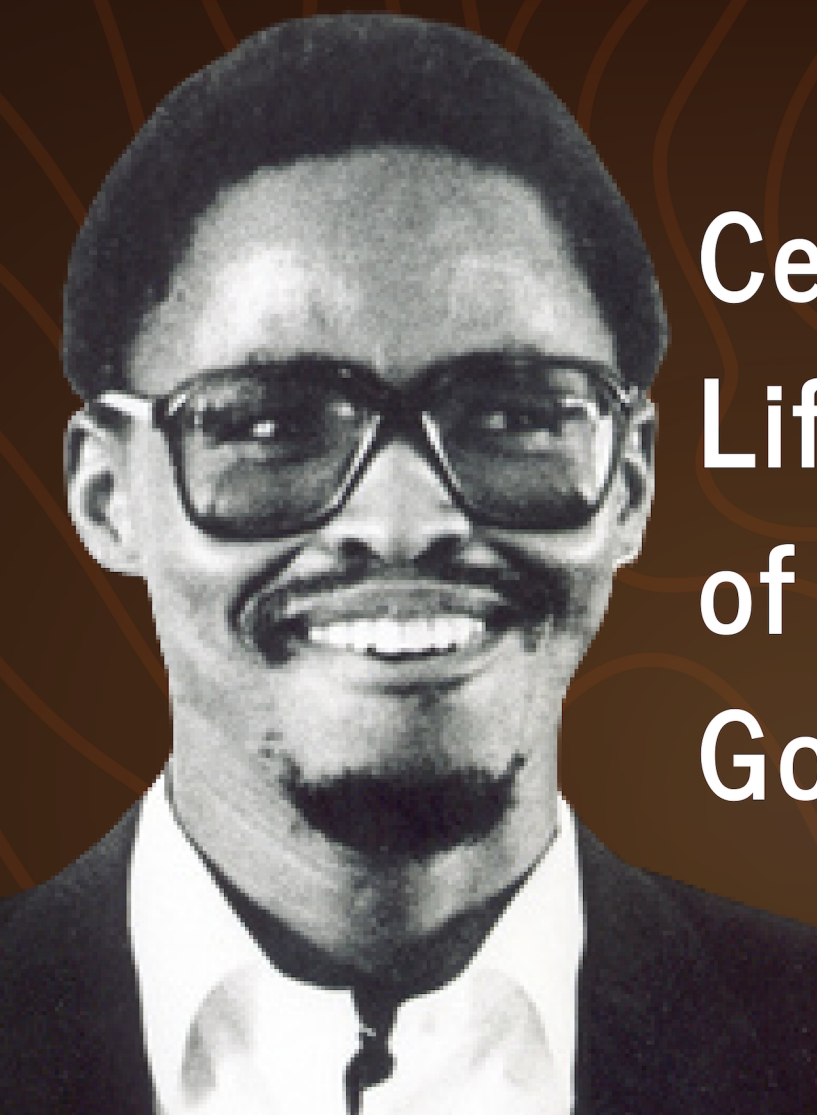




10th Annual
Matthew Goniwe Memorial Lecture



Celebrating the Life and Times of Matthew Goniwe

*Transformative Leadership for Social Change, to
Empower the Next Generation*

Activist, Boxer, Chorister, Scholar – Matthew Goniwe was a Selfless Humanitarian



Foreword

Gauteng Education MEC

MATOME CHILOANE

The 10 th Annual Matthew Goniwe Memorial lecture gives us an opportunity to celebrate an activist, boxer, chorister, scholar and an all round warm and selfless humanitarian. Matthew Goniwe's life and work teaches today's young people how to explore the various aspects of their lives in order to find their passion but reminds us all of looking for continuous improvement in more than one area of our lives or that of society.

Goniwe's legacy and central pillar was without a doubt education. After obtaining his teachers diploma in Fort Hare, he went to teach Maths and Science at a number of schools, including Holomisa High School in Mqanduli where he taught his younger brother Mbulelo.

Goniwe went on to become a school principal and in one instance, upon resisting a transfer to continue his activism, he was dismissed as a teacher. In his youth, Goniwe has taken up membership of a boxing club then a male voice choir.

He translated all these passions into his life as a teacher by organising a school choir, debating society and being a rugby and boxing coach, in addition to his normal teaching and extra lesson duties. This teaches as an example of leading a well-rounded academic, sporting and artistic life that teachers should encourage learners to pursue.

The Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership provides the Gauteng and indeed national

education system with well trained teachers, Heads of Departments, Principal, and officials who can enhance governance in schools. It is a fitting tribute to Goniwe but is by no means the only area of his life we should seek to celebrate.

The Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership provides the Gauteng and indeed national education system with well trained teachers, Heads of Departments, Principal, and officials who can enhance governance in schools. It is a fitting tribute to Goniwe but is by no means the only area of his life we should seek to celebrate.

In addition to this, we have launched a number of smart schools around the province and we aim to gradually digitise Gauteng classrooms in order to better prepare our learners for the digital age of artificial intelligence, machine learning and robotics.

Another area in which we can celebrate Matthew Goniwe's life is by improving local government and service delivery through good governance. Goniwe started his local government activism by fighting high rentals in Cradock.

When he led the Cradock Youth Association into the United Democratic Front, he fought the Apartheid government backed black local authorities. The local government model of forming street and ward committees was devised by Goniwe in what became known as the G-Plan before being adopted nationally by the UDF.

On an of the occasion of his release from prison, Goniwe pioneered a consumer boycott that became known as Black Christmas, designed to hit white owned retail shops and alongside rent boycotts, became a key pillar of the struggle against apartheid.

Goniwe, the youngest of eight children was born on the 26 th of December 1946 In Cradock. In addition to his teacher's diploma, he sought to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree, only to be hindered by admission requirements. He then obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in political sciences and education.

On the 27 th of June in 1985, when the apartheid government brutally murdered Goniwe alongside Fort Calata, whose grandfather Reverend Canon James Calata had shaped their activism, Sparrow Mkhonto, and Sice-lo Mhlauli they sought to suppress voices and ideas that they correctly identified as a threat to the system. They did not realise that the quartet, who became known as the Cradock Four will, like many activists they silenced from Steve Biko, Griffiths Mxenge to Chris Hani, will only serve to galvanise the black community in their struggle for freedom.

A key part of that struggle was to keep their values and ideals alive until the realisation of democracy. The aim of the memorial lecture is to keep the memory alive to serve as a guiding light of our democracy.

May it reach far and wide.

Premier Panyaza Lesufi: 'Goniwe's ideals shaped my own'

DON MAKATILE



Gauteng Premier: Panyaza Lesufi

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Matthew Goniwe Memorial Lecture, an event that is being celebrated by various leaders who have been at the helm of the Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership and Governance's success, including Gauteng Premier Panyaza Lesufi.

Lesufi, who served as Gauteng Education MEC from 2014 to 2022, has identified Goniwe as one of his heroes and the inspiration behind his fight against inequality in the education system.

One of the surest ways to get Lesufi pleasantly agitated is to get him to talk about Goniwe and his legacy. He speaks cheerfully about how the activist and freedom fighter's ideals shaped his own.

"He loved the country so much that he wanted everyone to have equal access to the things that we take for granted today. For instance, you can choose a school that you want to go to, choose textbooks that you want to study, choose a subject that you want to do ... in those days, unfortunately, you needed to get permission from the powers that be," Lesufi said.

Born on 27 December 1947 in the Eastern Cape, Goniwe was a one-of-a-kind teacher and political activist. He was a mathematics and science educator and school principal who was regarded as a fearless individual dedicated to the betterment of society.

He was part of the Cradock Four, alongside Sicelo Mhlauli, Sparrow Mkhonto and Fort Calata, who were kidnapped, tortured and murdered by the Apartheid Security Branch police on 27 June 1985.

To memorialise Goniwe and his contributions to education, the Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership and Governance (MGS LG) was founded in 2002.

The institution serves as the training arm of the Gauteng Department of Education and conducts research and provides cutting-edge programmes such as teacher development, school leadership, Early Childhood Development (ECD) and ICT.

In Lesufi's view, the Goniwe-type of teacher empowers people to contribute to the economy. For this reason, the former education MEC has been intentional in ensuring the success of the MGS LG and its various development programmes.

"When we talk about our education system, people talk about race, the size of the class. We need instead to talk about the quality of our teachers. What are they teaching our children? Are they teaching them the right things?" Lesufi said.

Passionate about early childhood development, Lesufi took on the task of ensuring the training of hundreds of ECD practitioners after the function was moved from

the Social Development Department to the Basic Education Department in 2022.

The MGS LG has been at the forefront of equipping ECD practitioners with the necessary skills through its various courses. By training teachers in ICT and e-learning skills, the institution is also steadily advancing Lesufi's vision of creating 'classrooms of the future' in Gauteng.

School leadership and the state of School Governing Bodies (SGBs) have also been areas of interest for Lesufi, for which the MGS LG also offers training with the belief that the success or failure of schools rests firmly on the quality of their leadership.

The Matthew Goniwe Memorial Lecture serves as an opportunity to remember the ideals espoused by the one-of-a-kind teacher and political activist.

As the tenth anniversary of the memorial lecture is celebrated, Lesufi said the occasion should also be used "as an opportunity to celebrate teachers that have done well in the province". He believes Goniwe's legacy represents what he would like to see in the field of education.

"Goniwe represents our struggle. He shaped and sharpened our ideas. Some of us were inspired by his work. We did not want his ideals to die," said Lesufi. "He remains a giant that no grave is big enough to carry."

Matthew Goniwe's legacy a gift for future generations

LUCAS LEDWABA



Professor Mbulelo Goniwe

Matthew Goniwe's excellent skills and commitment to teaching and empowering the community extended way beyond the classroom. His discipline, passion and dedication to the profession and deep love for his community made him an outstanding educator and community builder. This is how Professor Mbulelo Goniwe, a former student of the slain political activist, remembers the man who has come to epitomise the ethos of ethical, committed and dedicated leadership and servitude both inside and outside the classroom. Professor Goniwe was a pupil of Matthew's during his high school years in Mqanduli, a rural village in the Eastern Cape in the early 1970s. "He was a patriot, someone who had a genuine love for the motherland and his people, starting from his own family. He had that kind of love. That really inspired so many of us to actually achieve the best of their potential. He was that kind of person," said Prof Goniwe. "That's how this whole passion for education is centred, in that love. That was the springboard of his commitment and the innovative, interconnectedness of education and achievement," he said.

Matthew was Prof Goniwe's ta'omncinci, his father's younger brother. In his youth, the family entrusted him into the hands of Matthew, the man who, because of his prowess in boxing, was nicknamed Bullet.

"I was handed over to him to

groom me and even look after my needs. That's what led me then to be part of the active resistance, taking forward the family tradition that has been imparted on us from generation to generation," he said.

Prof Goniwe is an academic, a former political activist and ANC member of Parliament. Matthew specialised in mathematics and physical science education and always went the extra mile to impart knowledge on his learners.

"His world outlook and the life he led was to empower the black child to really understand mathematics and physical science to broaden their horizons," said Prof Goniwe.

The school in Mqanduli, like many in rural areas and townships at the time, had no such resources as laboratories or libraries. Instead of resigning himself to the fate laid out by the authorities then, to deprive black children of critical knowledge and skills, Matthew took matters into his own hands. "And he went the extra mile. Sometimes, he would use his own salary to buy material to do experiments," Prof Goniwe recalled. The theme for this year's 10th anniversary lecture of the Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership is Transformative Leadership for Social Change: Empowering the next generation.

Prof Goniwe believes that to be able to empower the next generation, teachers need to possess and implement some of Matthew's qualities.

“The love for his people, the flora and fauna, and everything that you find. Then the second thing would be the dedication. You have to be dedicated to what you do,” he said. He cited the example of how during Matthew’s time, his work wouldn’t stop at the ringing of the bell in the afternoon.

“Imagine [back then] there were less teachers, but after school, they would coach rugby, they would coach athletics, boxing. They would do a lot of extramural activities, not only focused on what they were paid for.

“So they heavily invested in us because we were actually the generation that would follow them,” he said.

This kind of dedication, coupled with an inclusive leadership style made Matthew a shining star and beacon of hope in his community. “He had that participatory leadership that doesn’t seek to take the credibility for achievement. He would delegate tasks to people and try to empower them to be able to deliver to on their expectations,” Prof Goniwe said.

“He knew the importance of collective leadership, a servitude kind of leadership where you really want to serve the people and not to be worshipped or adored or be populist,” he said.

Above all, Matthew understood how his position as a schoolteacher was perceived and respected in the broader community. He knew that in the eyes of the community he was not just a man who stood in front of a class with a chalk.

“My own understanding of things is that, firstly, people, society, communities, where we are from, looked up to the teachers and ministers of religion as important

societal assets. So they had an unquestionable respect for such people. They respected them,” Prof Goniwe reflects. Added to that Matthew had already proven his political mettle after serving four years on Robben Island after being convicted for furthering the aims of the ANC which was banned at the time. Prof Goniwe believes that institutions such as the Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership have a significant role to play in society. “They are very critical because once you seek to define yourself outside of your heritage, that is a very problematic approach to life. You need to know and learn from your forebears.

“And once you have institutions like the Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership



that seeks to uphold, preserve and advance a legacy of people like Matthew; it then speaks to the entire liberation struggle, heroes and heroines.

“That legacy is very beneficial to the future generations because they have to understand the link, how far did they go, and what is it that they achieved. How you take forward their vision, interpret it in the context of the present,” he said. It’s been 38 years since Matthew and his three comrades were brutally tortured and killed by Apartheid death squads. Yet

his name and the legacy of his work continue to live on.

“Memories fade, new people come up and so on. But he remains one of the few people that even after 30 years of their death is still very prominent in the thoughts of many, many people. There are people that are never spoken about. After a month of their death, they are forgotten.

“That’s why I said that the approach of the Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership and many other legacy preservation and promotion activities also contribute to that memory to be kept alive,” he said.

MGSLG Board Chairman on past success and future challenges

PHUTHI MOSOMANE

Inside Education's Phuti Mosomane recently spoke to Tshiliso Ledimo, the newly reappointed Chairperson of the Board of the Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership and Governance (MGSLG). This is an edited version of their discussion.

Congratulations on your reappointment as Chairperson of the Board of the Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership and Governance. What are your key priorities for the future?

One of the key strategic focus areas for the School is to go into the training space for Early Childhood Development (ECD) and explore the complex path of being a national training institute provider. We provide relevant clarifications to those who aspire to be teachers in the ECD space. So it's a big responsibility on our shoulders, and we are pursuing it with vigour and dedication.

Of course, as has always been the case, the Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership and Governance is in the space of training government bodies and the people who work for the government to be effective, and that is going to be much more important after the elections that are taking place next year. So, we usher in these people, and we equip them with the necessary skills to carry out their work and responsibilities effectively.

The School also provides training to Representative Councils of Learners. This project is very, very important because the RCLs are where you build your future leaders

so that they can educate their peers about how to become productive and patriotic citizens.

So these are the main focus areas. School leadership is important for us and, as you will notice, the theme for the day is transformative leadership for social change and nurturing the new generation.

We truly believe that we should empower school management teams to ensure that they can lead their respective institutions and support those that they need in each of their schools. This will also ensure that the education delivery process becomes seamless and ultimately benefits all learners for the greater good of society.

The MGSLG is founded on the legacy of Matthew Goniwe. For the younger generation, what is his legacy, and what can the new generation learn about him?

Matthew Goniwe was a teacher who eventually became a school principal. He was a maths and science teacher and was highly disciplined. He was a very conscientious teacher who believed that education does not just end with teaching school subjects, but is more about educating the entire society.

The MGSLG is founded on the legacy of Matthew Goniwe. For the younger generation, what is his legacy, and what can the new generation learn about him?



MGSLG Board Chairman Tshiliso Ledimo

Matthew Goniwe was a teacher who eventually became a school principal. He was a maths and science teacher and was highly disciplined. He was a very conscientious teacher who believed that education does not just end with teaching school subjects, but is more about educating the entire society. He taught his learners about the need to liberate Africans from the oppressive Apartheid rule of the time. Outside the classroom, he was a human rights activist and he was killed by the Apartheid government because he sought to educate his people.

Take us through the journey that the MGSLG has travelled as you celebrate its 21st anniversary?

The MGSLG has travelled a very complex path and it is turning 21 this year. When it was established, it was in 2003 and I'm sure you'll appreciate that it was only about six years after the new democratic dispensation came to power.

We had a very huge task to train teachers who were poorly trained in the pre-1994 period because some of them did not even have the necessary qualifications. We also had to set up new structures such as the School Governing Bodies (SGBs), change the entire education system and introduce the Representative Council of Learners system.

So, it has been a mammoth task, including dealing with curriculum changes that were taking place throughout the education transformation project. The introduction of curriculum changes meant that training methods and systems had to change as well.

The MGSLG has been able to navigate that path full of complexities because we have capable staff who can steer the way through those difficulties. Currently, everybody talks about ICT, and the MGSLG, as an institution, is already ahead in that space. We are doing the best we can to ensure we empower our teachers to the extent that we are now providing training in robotics and coding.

Can you briefly reflect on the MGSLG's successes and challenges?

Because we are in the education space, we register both challenges and successes. From where we are, we have successfully positioned the MGSLG in the education sector with impactful programmes. The

School is now expanding into other provinces as a national education training institute. Over the



previous years, we have received positive feedback from teachers on the quality of the training we provide. Also, it is worth noting that teachers are empowered by the training provided, and this impacts directly onto the learners.

Gauteng has been getting results precisely because of the efforts the Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership and Governance has made. The institution takes full credit for the progress made in the province.

We have challenges associated with limited resources because our primary source of funding remains the Gauteng provincial government. This means we are restricted from delivering fully on certain programmes because of our constrained financial resources. But to solve this chal-

lenge, the MGSLG has embarked on a revenue-generating drive to attract other partners into our programmes to ensure sustainability and expand on our training offerings.

Another big challenge is school safety. But our message here is simple – to solve this problem communities and schools must join hands together to make the learning and teaching environment safe. Communities must take ownership of schools and treat them as public assets. This will be a bold step in fighting criminality and violence in schools. Furthermore, parents must educate children about values such as self-respect and discipline and to stay away from drugs. A better collaboration between schools and communities remains the most viable solution to ensuring school safety.

Nyaniso Goniwe's vision for the school named after his activist father

LUCAS LEDWABA

In a 1985 article in the New York Times, journalist Alan Cowell reported about Nyameka Goniwe's concerns about letting her children attend the funeral of their father who had been murdered by Apartheid police death squads that year.

Nyameka, the wife of political activist, teacher, and community builder Matthew Goniwe, had attended the funeral of another activist, Steve Biko, who, like her husband, had also been murdered by the state six years earlier in 1977.

She had been disturbed by what she saw Biko's young children go through at his funeral and wasn't sure if letting her two youngsters, Nobuzwe and Nyaniso, attend would be a good idea.

Cowell wrote: "Nyaniso Goniwe, Mrs Goniwe said, is taking it differently. He accepts, she said, that his father is dead. But, she said she still recalls the wailing voices of infants at Mr Biko's funeral and must decide whether that sound will be heard at her husband's."

In November 2022, more than 37 years after his father's brutal murder, Nyaniso stood up to talk about his dad at a public function.

The event was the 20th anniversary gala dinner of the Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership and Governance.

This was one of the very rare events where Nyaniso, who has kept a low profile and prefers to stay out of the media spotlight, stepped into the shadow of the man he referred to as "the handsome fellow behind me here", pointing to a large portrait of the bespectacled slain political activist.

Living in the shadow of a famous parent, particularly if that person is a political martyr like Goniwe, is not an easy responsibility to carry. This is perhaps why Nyaniso, as his father's only son and who, in the Xhosa tradition, is expected to step into his shoes, has chosen instead not to live in the former UDF leader's shadow.

Those who heard Matthew Goniwe address political meetings and rallies describe him as a thoughtful thinker who avoided populism.

His nephew, Professor Mbulelo Goniwe,



who grew up under the Cradock leader's tutelage recalled that he had "a very unassuming manner, an attractive personality, [and] it was difficult not to notice if Matthew was present in any gathering."

Delivering his carefully crafted speech in memory of his father, Nyaniso avoided populism and rhetoric, sticking to the business of the day.

He was only three years old when the apartheid security forces abducted his father together with his dad's three comrades, Sparrow Mkhonto, Fort Calata and Sicelo Mhlawuli in June 1985.

It is unimaginable that he would not be weighed down by the trauma of the events leading to his father's death and the hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which conducted hearings into the case of the four slain activists in the late 1990s.

Yet in his speech, Nyaniso displayed a high level of emotional maturity and a sense of accepting that Matthew Goniwe was not only a father to his children and a husband to his wife, but a servant of the oppressed masses.

"He wasn't just an activist and freedom fighter, he was a son, a brother, an uncle, a father and a leader!" he said.

Nyaniso also gave an insight into his un-

derstanding of the meaning of the vision and mission of the Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership and Governance.

"Since it is an esteemed school, maybe more future leaders can come out [from it]. And what does that mean, future leaders? Future leaders will be faced with many challenges.

"As the world changes, we must adapt to how we face these challenges, and in turn, grow as leaders. A leader is not merely someone who commands a group or organization. A good leader exhibits the ability to take an average team of individuals and achieve greatness.

"Leadership is not supervision or leading. It is the ability to inspire or influence others towards an end goal," he said.

"A democratic leader seeks to be the best and seeks subordinates. And that is the reason why his subordinates will follow him. So, I say that maybe in the future there will be more leaders like Matthew Goniwe, [Fort] Calata, [Sparrow] Mkhonto, [Sicelo] Mhlawuli maybe not in politics, but maybe in other industries and professions," he said.

Nyaniso, whose name means truth, certainly hit the nail on the head with his undeniable facts about the meaning of ethical leadership and his father's role in making it an ideal and practice that future leaders of South Africa should strive to emulate and implement.

What current generation of teachers can learn from Matthew Goniwe

LUCAS LEDWABA

Quality leadership, selfless service to his people, and utmost dedication to his work remain a recurring theme that comes up whenever commentators reflect on the life and work of Matthew Goniwe and his unwavering spirit of community activism.

“The patron, Matthew Goniwe, understood completely that we are members of the community before we are activists. He derived his conviction from the understanding that human history is shaped by material conditions of existence,” said Matome Chiloane, Gauteng MEC for Education, reflecting on the 20th anniversary celebrations of the Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership and Governance (MGSLG) in 2022.

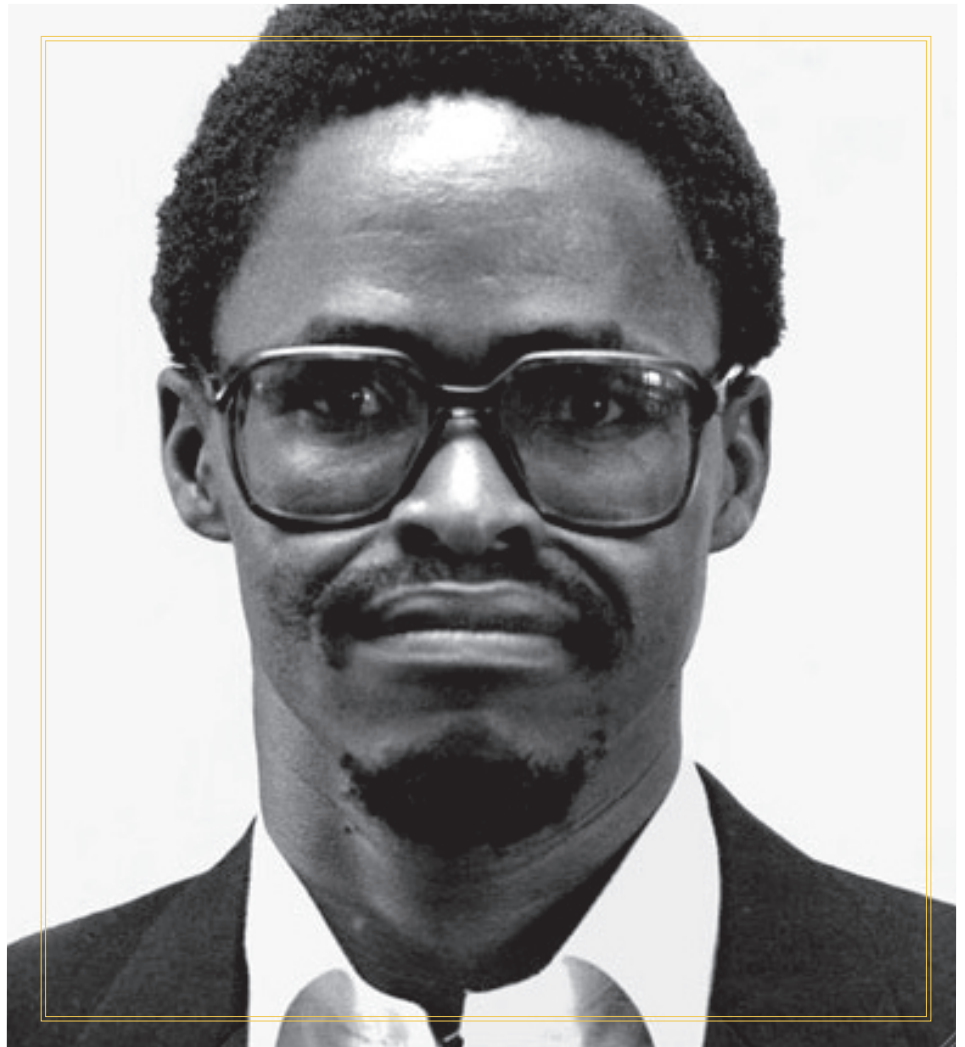
In 1985 shortly after his chilling murder by Apartheid state security agents, Judy Chalmers, an activist and member of the Black Sash movement, wrote this moving tribute in the Sash magazine: “Matthew Goniwe lived and died in the service of his people. Above all else, he wanted and loved to teach, and his dedication went far beyond the classroom. Anything that concerned his pupils was his concern also. He hated violence and longed for the day when he could once again take up his beloved profession. We honour his memory and pray that one day the peace he hoped and strived for will come to our land.”

Chalmers went on to say that Goniwe’s commitment and broad vision brought him into loggerheads with the Apartheid government.

“Matthew later ran into trouble with the authorities. He tried to provide his students with a wider understanding of the context in which they found themselves. He introduced political analysis and discussion into his lessons.”

Goniwe’s nephew, struggle veteran and academic Professor Mbulelo Goniwe repeated this sentiment while reflecting on Goniwe’s life of activism and service ahead of the 10th anniversary Lecture this year.

Prof Goniwe is perhaps best placed to offer deeper insights into the man and his work, having been his mathematics and science student in Mqanduli, Eastern Cape, in the



early 1970s.

“[During Matthew Goniwe’s time] we never had teachers that [would] go to school at eight o’clock and knock off at three and go to a shebeen. They [Matthew and his peers] would go to the rugby practice, they would be at a boxing club. There would be extra classes,” said Prof Goniwe.

However, he said there’s a ray of light coming as educators are seen to be increasingly resorting to the ethical commitment of Matthew Goniwe and his generation of selfless teachers.

“I see that element is coming up again,” said Prof Goniwe. “I can see when the grade 12s are being prepared and so on, that there are weekend schools, [that there are schools] in spring, autumn, and so on. To go that extra mile, that investment must be really based and premised on utmost dedication and commitment to investing in the future generations in all different ways.”

MEC Chiloane, a passionate educationist himself who served for three years as the Chairperson of the Education Portfolio Committee in the Gauteng Provincial Legislature Committee, recognised Goniwe’s deep commitment to his work during the 20th anniversary of the Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership and Governance in 2022.

Chiloane described Goniwe as “a relatively unsung hero of our struggle, whose life and times remain a template for which we continue to draw inspiration to date.

“It is our material condition that shapes our consciousness. The suffering of our people that he witnessed awakened his political consciousness, sharpened his resolve to fight for the liberation of his people.

“He was truly immersed in the development of his community, Cradock. He was no armchair revolutionary, nor a critic. Matthew Goniwe was a qualified teacher who believed in education for all and,

As a community leader, he went on to establish a number of community projects, amongst those a feeding scheme, a school choir, a debating society as well as boxing,” Chiloane remarked in tribute to Goniwe.

“And you know that in the Eastern Cape and Western Cape, boxing is quite big and the rugby and soccer clubs [he started] to keep the youth of his community actively and productively engaged through his involvement in his community, are doing well.

“Matthew Goniwe was practicing the, “Be the change you want to see”. Because when you start being the change you want to see, you stop judging others. When you stop complaining about others and start reflecting on yourself most powerfully, the notion steers you into action – into taking action with the only thing in the world over which you have control, and that is yourself.”

He said it was no accident of history that the Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership and Governance was named after the activist.

“To this day, it remains a fitting decision because the mere mention of his name is a call to action for us all, and a reminder of his exemplary life that espoused values such as black excellence, servanthood, humility, and ethical leadership. The most fitting tribute to his memory and legacy will be a solemn commitment to continue the fight for quality education.”

Chiloane’s predecessor, Panyaza Lesufi, in his tribute to the Matthew Goniwe’s legacy two years ago, underlined the significance of the activist’s lessons for the current generation. These are the values, he argued, “that need to be instilled in those who now carry the responsibility of sharpening the minds of future leaders”.

He added: “More importantly, teachers must be developed with the values Matthew Goniwe lived and died by, in the service of his people. Like Mathew Goniwe, teachers, above all else, must want and love to teach, and also share his dedication that went far beyond the classroom –anything that concerned his pupils was also his concern. He

also introduced discipline into the schools, gaining the respect of the children, parents and teachers alike, at a time when education disruptions were rife.”

At the 2022 Memorial Lecture, Goniwe’s former comrade Prof Menzi Duka, author of the book *Matthew Goniwe on a South African Frontier – A community history of African Revolution*, also emphasised Goniwe’s critical thinking and planning that characterised his leadership.

“He introduced trustworthy activists to the theory and concepts of the national democratic revolution, which included personal discipline, organisational discipline, and revolutionary discipline. Matthew linked theory, practice, and ethics to his sessions,” Prof Duka said.



**“Transformative Leadership or Social
Change, to Empower the Next Generation”**

