



**NUMSA announces the passing of its Regional Chairperson
24 February 2025
Press Statement**

It is with deep sorrow that the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) announces the passing of comrade Phakama Kheswa, the regional Chairperson of the KwaZulu-Natal Region. He was born on the 16th of July 1960 and sadly he passed away on 21 February 2025.

Comrade Kheswa was a disciplined cadre of the workers' struggle, a shop steward, a unifier, a negotiator, a working class leader, the unrelenting and staunch defender of workers, and a trade union activist par excellence. NUMSA lowers its banners to mourn the huge loss of this fearless leader.

We lower our revolutionary red flag in respect and in honour of Comrade Kheswa, who was an outstanding loyal senior cadre of NUMSA and a veteran of our working class movement.

We salute you comrade Kheswa and we can only say there is no sun that rises, that does not set. Our only task is to pick up the spear and soldier on.

On behalf of the National Office Bearers, the Central Committee and all our organisational structures, the leadership of the union passes its deepest and most sincere condolences to his family, friends and children.

Lala ngoxolo Comrade Kheswa.

You ran your race well and your impact will not be forgotten.

ENDS

Issued by Irvin Jim
NUMSA General Secretary

For more information, please contact:
Phakamile Hlubi-Majola
NUMSA National Spokesperson
0833767725
phakamileh@numsa.org.za

NUMSA Head Office number: 0116891700
NUMSA YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AsUlgwplI34&t=31s>
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