

‘She loved Mitchells Plain’ – Trevor Manuel, mourners gather to remember Theresa Solomon

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Former finance minister Trevor Manuel said no task was too big or too small for Theresa Solomon.

- **A memorial for former mayor of Cape Town and anti-apartheid activist Theresa Solomon was held at West End Primary School in Mitchells Plain on Wednesday.**
 - **Solomon died last week.**
 - **Among the speakers was former finance minister Trevor Manuel.**
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Former finance minister Trevor Manuel has remembered Theresa Solomon as “the voice of the people”.

A memorial for the former mayor of Cape Town and anti-apartheid activist was held at West End Primary School in Mitchells Plain on Wednesday.

Manuel was among the speakers and said Solomon was a champion of the people and understood the needs of the communities she worked in – especially Mitchells Plain.

“She represented the voice of the people. Working among the people, empowering the people, loving them was her speciality. She had a special quality about her when she was among her people here in Mitchells Plain,” said Manuel.

He said no task was too big or too small.

“She tackled everything with love and respect. And that won her [the] hearts of the people,” said Manuel.

Solomon, 79, died on Monday, 8 July after illness. She was surrounded by loved ones.

More than 300 mourners gathered to celebrate Solomon’s life on Wednesday, honing in on her love for her fellow countrymen and women.

In opening the floor to speakers, Father Michael Weeder said Solomon remained steadfast in her passion to unite the country in developing a safer and brighter future for all.

“She wasn’t just a mother, she was a true champion for freedom and togetherness. She lived for her work in the communities,” said Weeder.

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Family friend and Solomon's close confidant, Lucille Meyer, said she "embodied the struggle for liberation".

"She embodied love," Meyer added,

"Theresa understood what it meant to stand in your personal power. Even the way she dealt with her illness, she wanted to be awake and aware".

"Her life's commitment to empowering young people and strengthening communities speaks to the wonderful soul she was," said Meyer.

Meyer told the crowd that a month before her passing, Solomon had been knitting, a hobby she thoroughly enjoyed.

She asked me to find some people from Mitchells Plain who we can give the knitted beanies to because it's going to be a cold winter.

"That's the kind of woman she was, kind, loving, caring, and always thinking of the communities," said Meyer.

Meyer said Solomon embodied the community and was always available to residents.

"She loved Mitchells Plain," said Meyer.

A memorial for Theresa Solomon was held in Mitchells Plain, where she once lived.

Another friend, Jerimia Thuynsma, said this was something her family had come to understand.

"She never wanted people to make appointments to speak to her because according to Theresa, problems did not make appointments with residents," said Thuynsma.

Local anti-crime activist Lynn Phillips described Solomon as loyal and community-oriented.

"She understood the society that is plagued by gangsterism and drugs and it hurt her tremendously when she read in the news and heard from people on the ground of what crimes were happening on the Cape Flats.

"But still, she remained steadfast in enhancing young people's lives so that they stood clear of getting involved in crimes," said Phillips.

Phillips said that it was due to Solomon that she became a crime activist.

"She was brazen and fearless. And her love for uniting communities was admirable," said

Phillips.

Mitchells Plain CPF chairperson Norman Jantjies said working with Solomon was one of his greatest achievements.

“She was the first democratically elected founder of the Mitchells Plain CPF. She lived for uniting leaders, communities and officials in working together to get rid of crime. I call on leaders to unite against crime, for Theresa’s sake,” said Jantjies.

Theresa Solomon's granddaughter, Tina Malaika Levendal, said her grandmother was an inspiration to many.

Solomon’s granddaughter, Tina Malaika Levendal, said her grandmother was an inspiration to her and so many others.

“She will be missed dearly, but I believe that her memory will forever live on,” said Levendal.