

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | Saturday, July 31, 2021

naamsa PAYS ITS TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHAN VAN ZYL

naamsa | The Automotive Business Council wishes to pay its profoundest and sincerest tribute to one of its own - Dr. Johan VAN ZYL, who sadly passed away on 30 July 2021 at the age of 63 due to COVID complications at a Pretoria Hospital.

Dr. VAN ZYL was elected **naamsa** President for two terms from 2005 to 2008 and again in 2013 for a two-year term. “The Doc” as he was affectionately known within the auto corridors, led the automotive industry with distinction as **naamsa** President during the highs of the industry when domestic new vehicle sales, vehicle exports and vehicle production records were achieved in 2006/2007. He was also at the helm and a towering architect of the Automotive Production Development Programme [APDP] in 2013. Equally, “the Doc” saw his fair share of industry lows when the market contracted by nearly half during the 2008/2009 global financial crisis.

“Dr. VAN ZYL was an influential and impactful leader, not only in the automotive industry, but also in the country when he and a few other business leaders established the PPGI [Public Private Growth Initiative], which brought together social partners to work much closer in resolving some of the country’s biggest socio-economic challenges”, said Mikel MABASA, **naamsa** CEO.

Following his impressive career as CEO of Toyota SA, then President and CEO of Toyota Motor Europe in Brussels and Operating Officer of Toyota Motor Corporation [TMC], he retired from his international positions last year, and returned home to South Africa where he continued as Executive Chairman of Toyota SA.

“The Doc had an exceptional business acumen and excellent knowledge of the automotive industry, nationally and internationally. Toyota has remained the overall market leader in South Africa for the past 41 consecutive years, mainly under his watchful eye and leadership. His various talents included his passion for education and human development. I met him for the first time just over two years ago when he flew into the country from Brussels to participate in the launch of TWIMS [Toyota Wessels Institute for Manufacturing Studies] which was established by the Toyota Wessels Trust as a not for profit initiative dedicated to the development of manufacturing executive across Africa for students from all industries and backgrounds”. TWIMS has partnered with the Gordon Institute of Business Science [GIBS] to offer MBA studies in manufacturing”, MABASA said.

Andrew KIRBY, the current **naamsa** President also paid tribute to “the Doc” and “said his passing came as a shock to all us and he’ll be greatly missed. He had a wonderful impact on our country and will leave a positive legacy”.

Gary SCOTT, **naamsa** Vice President: Retailing OEMs and CEO of Kia SA also expressed his sadness and has since sent his condolences - “his strong legacy is indisputable - a wonderful life of achievement and contribution. Our thoughts are with his family and the entire Toyota family”.

Billy Tom, President and CEO of Isuzu; Andreas ENGLING, CEO of Mercedes-Benz SA; Kabelo RABOTHO, CEO of Nissan SA were among many other automotive industry leaders who sent their messages of support and tributes.

Being a key part of Toyota SA since 1993, the Doc always reiterated that his home would always be South Africa and that he remained committed to the development of the automotive industry in this country. This great legend and pioneer of the domestic automotive industry will be sorely missed! May His Soul Rest in Eternal Peace.

END OF STATEMENT

OUR STRATEGY:	REIMAGINING THE FUTURE TOGETHER
OUR AMBITION:	“the most credible thought leader and respected partner of a globally competitive and transformed automotive industry that actively contribute to the sustainable development of South Africa”.
OUR VALUES:	Partnership Consistency Trust
OUR ASSETS:	#MOBILITYMatters #naamsaAutolytics #naamsaDreamsAcademy SA-AutoWeek

