Mercedes-Benz

Press Information
23 November 2026

Mercedes-Benz South Africa Limited's statement on the untimely passing of Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka.

.

Mercedes-Benz South Africa (MBSA) learnt with great sadness on Friday evening of the passing of our Independent Non-Executive Director, Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka.

Former Deputy President Dr. Mlambo-Ngcuka enjoyed a distinguished career in both national and international public service. Her unwavering commitment to advancing women's rights was demonstrated through her leadership and association with numerous organisations dedicated to education, social justice, women's empowerment and gender equality. Notably, she served as Executive Director of UN Women and was the founder of the Umlambo Foundation. From 2005 to 2008, Dr. Mlambo-Ngcuka served as Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa. Prior to this, she was Minister of Minerals and Energy from 1999 to 2005 and Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry from 1996 to 1999. She also served as a Member of Parliament from 1994 to 1996 as part of South Africa's first democratic government.

In February 2024, Dr. Mlambo-Ngcuka was appointed as an Independent Non-Executive Director of MBSA and Chairperson of the Social and Ethics Committee. In this capacity, she provided stewardship of the company's corporate citizenship agenda, placing education and the empowerment of children at the centre of MBSA's socio-economic development efforts.

Commenting on her passing, Mr Wilfried Porth, Chairperson of the MBSA Limited Board, said:

"Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka was an extraordinary and inimitable leader whose experience, wisdom, integrity and commitment to development enriched both the public and private sectors. Her contribution to MBSA, particularly her guidance on matters of social impact and corporate citizenship, leaves a lasting legacy. While we mourn her loss, we remain deeply grateful for her service and honoured to have benefitted from her leadership. Personally, it was a privilege to know her and to experience first-hand the wisdom, integrity and humanity that defined her. Behind her extraordinary achievements was a person of great warmth, humility and generosity of spirit, she will be deeply missed."

MBSA extends its sincere gratitude for Dr. Mlambo-Ngcuka's life and contribution, and conveys its deepest sympathies to her husband, Bulelani Ngcuka, the Ngcuka and Mlambo families, her loved ones, and her fellow members of the MBSA Limited Board of Directors.

Contact:

Nandi Jiyane
Specialist: Corporate Communication and Reputation Management
Mobile: +2781 3796828
Email: nandi.jiyane@mercedes-benz.com

Mercedes-Benz South Africa at a glance

Mercedes-Benz South Africa (MBSA) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the global company, Mercedes-Benz AG. Established in 1948, MBSA is one of the largest automotive groups in South Africa. MBSA headquarters are located in Pretoria, Menlyn Maine where the Sales and Marketing office for Mercedes-Benz Cars and Mercedes-Benz Vans operates from. With about 2,400 employees, the East London Plant is an important part of the global C-Class production network, manufacturing Mercedes-Benz C-Class cars in both left- and right-hand drive for the local and export markets.

Learn more about current topics and events related to Mercedes-Benz South Africa on our LinkedIn Page.
For additional corporate information, please visit https://corporate.mercedes-benz.co.za/.

Mercedes-Benz Anniversary Year "140 Years of Innovation"
Since Carl Benz filed the patent for the first automobile 140 years ago and Gottlieb Daimler built his motorised carriage shortly afterwards, Mercedes-Benz has dedicated itself to constantly innovate and to create the world's most desirable cars for customers. This ambition has driven every innovation – from the world's first automobile in 1886 to today's intelligent and safe electric vehicles, like the all-new GLC and the award-winning all-new CLA. With the new S-Class, the company continues the biggest product launch programme in its history. With its passion for performance and pioneering power, excellence and an unwavering commitment to customer service, the brand has consistently shaped the future of mobility. The result goes well beyond engineering achievement – it creates the unmistakable feeling that leads through everything Mercedes-Benz does: Welcome home.

Mercedes-Benz is celebrating 140 years of innovation by driving three new S-Class saloons on a trans-continental journey to 140 locations worldwide. Each place highlights the brand's technology, heritage, pioneering spirit and worldwide presence. Along the way customers, fans and colleagues will get to join in the celebrations - on an epic adventure that will run until October. Follow the "140 Years. 140 Places" drive across six continents on our "140 years of innovation | Mercedes-Benz Media" special and via the Mercedes-Benz Community.

Further information about **Mercedes-Benz Group** is available at:
media.mercedes-benz.com and group.mercedes-benz.com

The figures in this document are preliminary and have neither been approved yet by the Supervisory Board nor audited by the external auditor.

Forward-looking statements

This document contains forward-looking statements that reflect current views of the Mercedes-Benz Group about future events. The words “anticipate”, “assume”, “believe”, “estimate”, “expect”, “intend”, “may”, “can”, “could”, “plan”, “project”, “should” and similar expressions are used to identify forward-looking statements. These statements are subject to many risks and uncertainties, material examples of which include (1) an adverse development of global economic conditions, in particular a negative change in market conditions in the most important markets e.g. a shift in consumer preferences towards smaller, lower-margin vehicles; a limited demand for all-electric vehicles; a possible lack of acceptance of products or services which limits the ability to achieve prices and adequately utilize production capacities; a decline in resale prices of used vehicles; (2) the business outlook for companies in which the Mercedes-Benz Group holds a significant equity interest; (3) the successful implementation of strategic cooperations and joint ventures; (4) a deterioration of refinancing possibilities on the credit and financial markets; (5) the effective implementation of cost-reduction and efficiency-optimization measures; and (6) the resolution of pending governmental investigations or of investigations requested by governments and the outcome of pending or threatened future legal proceedings; and other risks and uncertainties, some of which are described under the heading “Risk and Opportunity Report” in the current Annual Report or in the current Interim Report. Further examples for such risks include events of force majeure including natural disasters, pandemics, acts of terrorism, cyber-attacks, political unrest, armed or other conflicts, industrial accidents and their effects on sales, purchasing, production or financial services activities; changes in currency exchange rates, customs and foreign trade provisions; changes in laws, regulations and government policies (or changes in their interpretation), particularly those relating to vehicle emissions, fuel economy and safety or to the communication regarding sustainability topics (environmental, social or governance topics); price increases for fuel, raw materials or energy; disruption of production due to shortages of materials or energy, labour strikes or supplier insolvencies. If any of these risks and uncertainties materializes or if the assumptions underlying any of our forward-looking statements prove to be incorrect, the actual results may be materially different from those we express or imply by such statements. The Mercedes-Benz Group AG does not intend or assume any obligation to update these forward-looking statements since they are based solely on the circumstances at the date of publication.

Mercedes-Benz Group at a glance

Mercedes-Benz Group AG is one of the world’s most successful automotive companies. With Mercedes-Benz AG, the Group offers a wide range of high-end passenger cars and premium vans. Mercedes-Benz Financial Services is another key pillar of the Group and plays a central role in the financial services business. The company founders, Gottlieb Daimler and Carl Benz, made history by inventing the automobile in 1886. As a pioneer of automotive engineering, Mercedes-Benz sees shaping the future of mobility in a safe and sustainable way as both a motivation and obligation.
Mercedes-Benz continues to invest systematically in the development of efficient powertrains and sets the course for an all-electric future. The company seeks to offer customers the most desirable option in every segment - by relying on advanced technologies, extraordinary designs and an incomparable customer experience. The company’s efforts are also focused on the intelligent connectivity of its vehicles and autonomous driving as Mercedes-Benz regards it as its aspiration and obligation to live up to its responsibility to society and the environment. Mercedes-Benz sells its vehicles and services in nearly every country of the world and has production facilities in Europe, North and Latin America, Asia and Africa. The brand portfolio includes, in addition to Mercedes-Benz, Mercedes-AMG, Mercedes-Maybach as well as the brands in the areas of financial services and mobility: Mercedes-Benz Bank, Mercedes-Benz Financial Services, and Athlon. The company is listed on the Frankfurt and Stuttgart stock exchanges (ticker symbol MBG). In 2025, the Group had a workforce of around 164,000 and sold more than 2.1 million vehicles. Group revenues amounted to €132.2 billion and Group EBIT to €5.8 billion.