

RIP Raymond Louw

NEWSWATCH: Media legend and Sanef Council member Raymond Louw and his wife, Jean died within 24 hours of each other. He was 92.



Credit: [PenSouthAfrica](#)

Raymond Louw was a journalist, editor and media commentator. He was the winner of numerous national and international media freedom awards. In 2011 he was named a World Press Freedom Hero by the Vienna-based International Press Institute. The award acknowledged his commitment to press freedom and his outspoken defence of journalists' rights.

Sanef founder member Mary Papayya said in a press statement, "He was with us from the beginning as Sanef and made significant contributions to the call to end punitive legislation against media freedom. He was always at the round tables on these discussions and deliberations. He was passionate about access to information and the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) and ensuring the protection of journalist sources."

She added, "We have lost a giant among us in the media industry. His role within Sanef and the media was priceless. He was a mentor to so many. He was our institutional memory on all fronts."

'Oom Ray', as he was fondly known by Sanef members, won Sanef's Stephen Wrottesley Award three times for his tireless commitment to the organisation.

Sanef chair Mahlatshe Mahlase added, “We will miss his editorial wisdom, his passion for justice and his unstoppable energy. Even in retirement, Raymond continued to contribute immensely to Sanef. He was pained by continued attacks on journalists and attempts to muzzle the media by various actors. He was a wealth of wisdom and always a pillar of strength.”

Sanef sends condolences to the family.

“ [#MorningNewsToday](#): Raymond Louwdies. Courtesy [#DStv403 pic.twitter.com/R4XBJdKgtB](#)— eNCA (@eNCA) [June 5, 2019](#) ”

“ Today we mourn a stalwart of press freedom. Raymond Louw was a legend in the media and spoke truth to power for 93 years. [pic.twitter.com/kELCaTYci2](#)— [frayintermedia \(@frayintermedia\)](#) [June 5, 2019](#) ”

“ We mourn the loss of a press freedom giant, a principled voice and supporter. We send all strength to Ray and Jeans family and friends and especially Fiona and Derek. <https://t.co/D8Yo1sbXBD>

RIP [#RaymondLouw](#)— [Media Matters \(@MediaMattersZA\)](#) [June 5, 2019](#) ”

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