

03 April 2018

Dear Mrs Patel and the Patel family

We are writing as a group of researchers who worked closely with Firoz. We offer our sympathies for your deep loss.

As researchers who had worked with Firoz for a number of years, both when he was in the Department of Education and in the Department of Higher Education and Training. We were shocked and saddened to hear the news of his passing.

Since 2012 we worked closely with Firoz on the Labour Market Intelligence Partnership (LMIP) project. This was a complex project and involved building a skills planning mechanism for South Africa. In the beginning we had to grapple with big ideas and Firoz offered insights and learnings from previous attempts on how to explore this. He spent long times with us exploring and building on ideas- including spending a Saturday in Durban talking through how to go forward.

In our work together Firoz was the ultimate professional: Making sure that every scheduled meeting takes place and always starting on time. All discussions were issue based and when we had difference in opinions these were managed professionally without it affecting personal relationships.

We will continue to honour Firoz in the LMIP project and as South Africa builds its skills planning mechanism much credit will go to him for setting up the strong foundations.

As researchers we will miss his insightful comments and engagements on how we move forward to improve education and skills development in the country.

We all pray for your strength in managing this huge loss.

From the researchers of the LMIP project

Dr Vijay Reddy, Dr Glenda Kruss, Dr Angelique Wildschut (Human Science Research Council), Dr Haroon Borat (University of Cape Town), Dr Mike Rogan (Rhodes University).