



SOUTH AFRICAN  
**CHEFS ASSOCIATION**  
EST. 1974

# Memorial Service of Fatima Gaibee

**President's Address**

Friday 7 February 2025

School of Tourism and Hospitality,

University of Johannesburg

Chef Coo Pillay



Ladies and Gentlemen, esteemed colleagues, and dear friends,

Today, we gather to honor the life and legacy of a remarkable woman—Fatima Gaibee. As the former Chairlady of our SA Chefs Chefpreneur Committee, Fatima was a beacon of strength, passion, and commitment to our industry. Her loss is deeply felt by all of us, but her memory will continue to inspire and guide us.

Fatima was more than just a colleague and leader; she was a true champion for the culinary community. Her passion for the industry was boundless, and she had an incredible ability to recognize and nurture talent. Whether it was through her work with the Chefpreneur Committee, where she helped create opportunities for budding chefs, or through her constant advocacy for the growth and development of our association, Fatima's impact was immeasurable.

Her commitment to the members of our association was unwavering. She understood the challenges that chefs face, especially entrepreneurs, and always sought ways to provide them with the support they needed to succeed. Fatima wasn't just a chairlady; she was a mentor, a friend, and a tireless advocate. She dedicated countless hours to ensuring that our voices were heard and that we, as a community, had the resources and platforms to thrive.

Fatima's vision for the future of our industry was one of inclusivity and empowerment. She believed in the power of mentorship, the importance of innovation, and the potential of every individual within our ranks. Her legacy will live on in the countless chefs whose lives she touched, in the initiatives she helped establish, and in the work that we continue to do as an association.

As we remember Fatima today, let us also commit ourselves to continuing the work she was so passionate about. Let us support one another as she did, strive for excellence in all that we do, and, above all, carry forward the spirit of generosity and mentorship that she exemplified so effortlessly.

Fatima's passing leaves a gap in our hearts, but it also leaves us with a responsibility—a responsibility to honor her memory through the work we do and the legacy we create for future generations of chefs.

Dear Fatima—thank you for your service, your dedication, and your unwavering belief in the potential of this community. You will be sorely missed, but you will never be forgotten.

Rest in peace, our dear friend.

Thank you.

Chef Coo Pillay