

REHANA ADAM

(Ismail Vadi)

Rehana Adam (78), popularly known as “Aunty Rehana”, was a veteran anti-apartheid women’s activist in Lenasia.



Aunty Rehana was married to the late Essop “Uncle Baboo” Adam, who was a brother to Farid Adam, the number one accused in the historic Treason Trial of 1956.

Aunty Rehana was born into a humble home on 25 February 1944 in Sophiatown. She did her schooling at the Vrededorp Indian Girls’ School and the hostel-based school in Mia’s Farm, Waterval.

When the Adam family moved to Lenasia, both Aunty Rehana and Uncle Baboo became activists in the Congress movement.

Aunty Rehana served on the Executive Committee of the Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC) and was active in the United Democratic Front. She served as the Deputy Chairperson of the ANC-Lenasia Branch for four consecutive terms in the 1990s.

She was a founder member of the Lenasia Women’s Congress and a leading organiser of women in the anti-apartheid struggle.

Being a strong-minded community person, she worked in the Federation of Residents’ Association and served on the School Governing Bodies at Pentarosa Primary and Nirvana High Schools in Lenasia.

She served as a Councillor in the City of Johannesburg for three consecutive terms since 1995. After her retirement from official politics, she moved to George in the Eastern Cape, where she continued her civic activism.

Rehana Adam passed away in August 2022 after a period of illness at her family home in Robertsham, Johannesburg.

