

Lucky Dube

Lucky Philip Dube was a South African reggae musician and Rastafarian. He recorded 22 albums in Zulu, **English** and Afrikaans in a 25-year period.

Lucky Dube was born on 3rd August 1964 on a small farm in Ermelo, in South Africa.



"Lucky Philip Dube" was his real name. Thankful about his birth, his mother named him like that after having lost a baby.

Like many other kids in Africa, Lucky often had to work and help support his family instead of going to school. He once worked as a gardener or as a library assistant. He was partly raised by his granny because as a single mom, his mother was working a lot as well.

He started to make music when he was still a child. He recorded a number of "mbaqanga" albums in the languages of Zulu and Afrikaans before switching to reggae in 1984, inspired by Peter Tosh.

He was the biggest selling reggae artist of South Africa. His album [Prisoner](#) was South Africa's best selling album of the 1980s/90s and [Victims](#) sold over 1 million copies. The compilation [Serious Reggae Business](#) had phenomenal sales in Ghana. He won over 20 awards in South Africa and internationally. He was on tour most of his life.

He and his wife Zanele had seven children. He was a big fan and owner of horses.

He strictly refused to smoke ganja, drink alcohol or use any other drug in order to be a good example for his children and the youth. He was a peaceful protester against racial discrimination, war and crime.

During an attempted carjacking on 18.10.2007 in Rosettenville, a suburb of Johannesburg, he was shot and killed in his car in front of the eyes of his teenage kids. He was only 43 years old. The three murderers were caught and jailed for life.