



community safety & liaison

Department :
Community Safety and Liaison
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

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MEDIA ALERT

TO : ALL MEDIA
DATE : 12 December 2013
ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

OBITUARY OF THE LATE HEAD OF KZN COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON, MR VUSUMUZI RONNIE BHENGU

VUSUMUZI Ronald (Ronnie) Bhengu, was born in KwaMashu in 1959 and grew up in Chesterville, west of Durban, matriculating at Hlahlindlela High School in Hillcrest.

He is the son of Duduzile and Bhekithemba Bhengu.

Ronnie had a stint at the University of Zululand as a law student before 'crossing' into exile via Botswana in 1980.

He had completed basic military training in Zambia before going for a full military course in Angola.

Ronnie later moved to Bulgaria, where he obtained a Master of Art in Pedagogics from the University of Sofia.

On return from Bulgaria in 1986, Ronnie was deployed by MK to Camp 32, in northern Angola, where he served as a security officer.

He also has qualifications in project management from Ede, in the Netherlands.

He has dedicated his entire life as an activist, a soldier and commander of Umkhonto Wesizwe, the military wing of the African National Congress.

As an underground activist, Ronnie was also a staunch and an active member of the Amabomvu, the South African Communist Party (SACP) outside and inside the country.

Ronnie returned to South Africa in 1991, in the process holding a number of key posts.

These included co-managing an R80- million Kagiso Bursary Fund in Cape Town.

He also worked, briefly, as the tutor at the then University of Natal, now called University of KwaZulu-Natal.

In 1992, Ronnie worked as a Regional Education Officer for the National Coordinating Committee for Repatriation of Exiles.

From 1994 to 1996, Ronnie was the Head of Financial Aid Bureau at the then Natal Technikon, now Durban University of Technology, where he assisted hundreds of people to access higher education.

In 1996 to 2001, Ronnie worked as the Head of Department and Part-Part Lecturer to BTech students at the Technikon Northern Gauteng.

Here he was part of the Broader Transformation Forum for the Technikon. He has also sat on the Executive Committee of the National Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu).

In 2002-2004, Ronnie became a diplomat at the South African Mission in Geneva, Switzerland where he was also an Intelligence Officer within the Department of Intelligence.

From 2004 to 2008, he became a diplomat at South African Embassy, where he was the also the Head of Intelligence.

From 2008 to 2011, Ronnie worked as an Intelligence Analyst.

Later in September 2011, Ronnie joined the Department of Community Safety and Liaison as the Head of Department.

As the HOD, Ronnie has been credited for placing communities at the centre of crime-fighting through the programme of ***Building A United Front Against Crime***.

Some of his key project was to review the organizational structure of the department, devolving some crime fighting initiatives into district, regions and making it closer to the people.

Ronnie, working in partnership with other community structures, spearheaded the anti-drugs and other illegal substances campaign.

The campaign is now being rolled out throughout the province by the department. He died on December 2, 2013 at 17h00, at Military1 Hospital in Pretoria after being sick for less than a year.

Ronnie is survived by his parents, Duduzile and Bhekithemba Bhengu, his four sisters, one brother and his beloved children, Linda, Amanda and Mwalimu, the late Thamsanqa and Kim.

The family would like to extend their sincere thanks and gratitude to all their relatives, friends, fraternal organisations and the Department for their unlimited support during the time of bereavement.

He will be buried in Chesterville on Saturday, December 14, 2013, after the funeral service at the Chesterville Sports Grounds at 10:00

Ends

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