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## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MOURNS THE DEATH OF ITS HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS SIPHO KHUMALO**

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Community Safety and Liaison, mourns the untimely passing of its veteran Head of Communications, Siphokhumalo.

Khumalo (59), a highly respected former journalist, died this morning after a short illness in a Durban Hospital.

He joined the Department of Community Safety and Liaison in 2013 after a long career as a political reporter at the Independent Media Group and many other media houses.

As spokesperson for the Department, he has been instrumental in advising government on communications and political related matters. He also championed many programmes of fighting crime and strengthening relations between the police and communities in the province.

Commenting after receiving these sad news, MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mxolisi Kaunda, who visited the family today, praised Khumalo for his vast knowledge and understanding of the media fraternity and for his contribution in the government space. He also played an instrumental role in leading the communications team in the interprovincial crime fighting structure which includes KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape, Limpopo, Free State and Gauteng.

"We are deeply saddened by the untimely departure of MrKhumalo. His knowledge and experienced contributed immensely to the work and position of government. When he joined the Department, working under former MEC now Premier, Mr Willies Mchunu, Khumalo turned the department around and his presence was felt. His work entailed working with key stakeholders, including the police and community crime fighting structures. His passing has rob us of the most effective weapon we had at our disposal in reaching out to our communities on the good work of government.

He was a writer of note. We send our heartfelt condolences to his wife, family, media fraternity and the employees in the Department" said Kaunda.

