



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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ACTING TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MEC KWAZI MSHENGU CALLS ON POLICE NOT TO DIE WITH GUNS IN THEIR HANDS FOLLOWING THE MURDER OF A SAPS MEMBER WHO WAS KILLED WHILE PROTECTING A GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE VICTIM

Acting KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Kwazi Mshengu has given a stern warning to brazen criminals that police will not hesitate to use deadly force if their lives are threatened.

MEC Mshengu was commenting following the murder of Constable Mfihloyakhe Ndlovu, 45, from KwaXimba who was killed while attending to a gender-based violence victim.

"Police must not die with their guns in their hands and police must not be tolerant towards criminals because when criminals draw their guns their intention is clear and that is to kill police. Our message to police is that when faced with hardened criminals or anyone that points a gun towards a police officer, then the police must not hesitate to defend themselves and their communities decisively. It is better to count the bodies of criminals rather than to count the bodies of criminals. It can't be business as usual when police continue to die in numbers at the hands of criminals. Our country should not be run by criminals and police should squeeze the space for criminals," said MEC Mshengu.

According to reports Constable Ndlovu and Constable Moodley were attending to a complainant from the Community Service Centre from Chatsworth Police Station where she required assistance in respect of domestic violence. The police officers proceeded to Welbedacht East where upon arrival, both police officers entered the yard of the property. Constable Ndlovu was standing at the window when the suspect shot him on his chest above his bullet proof vest. Constable Ndlovu fell to the ground. The suspect ran out of the house and began firing at police.

Police retaliated killing the suspect. Constable Ndlovu passed away at the crime scene. MEC Mshengu, who visited Constable Ndlovu's family yesterday afternoon to pay homage to the fallen officer, described him as a dedicated policeman who died in the line of duty while responding to a case of domestic violence.

"We are saddened that we continue to lose experienced police officers at the hands of criminals which puts severe strain on the police because they continue to be under attack, and they are not protected by the communities they serve. The killing of police officers needs to be confronted by all of us because it is a direct attack to the state and the rule of law. This should be the last police officer to die in this manner, more so as he was

responding to a case of gender-based violence which has been described by President Cyril Ramaphosa as a second pandemic. The incidents of gender-based violence will not be eliminated by police alone, but it requires strong family foundations and active community engagements,” added MEC Mshengu.

MEC Mshengu expressed his deepest condolences to the family of Constable Ndlovu who will be laid to rest next week Sunday.

MEC Mshengu said the Department of Community Safety and Liaison in the province will activate all community structures and mobilize them to intensify their efforts in a bid to end gender-based violence and police killings. He said in the third quarter of the 2020/2021 financial year, four police officers were killed in KwaZulu-Natal. Two were killed while they were on duty and two died off duty.

The Department previously rolled-out impactful campaigns such as Sekwanele, which was aimed at galvanising the community against the scourge of police killings. Through these interventions and other programmes such as the One Million Signature Campaign Against Police Killings, reported incidents of police killings subsided.

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