

Russia vs Ukraine: The wife of one of the 13 men who were recruited to Russia has reached out to the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma (Voicenote)

Alert to the media from the MEC Spokesperson

10 April 2026

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: The mother of three children, who is in distress, in Umzinyathi District Municipality (Kranskop) has contacted the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements Siboniso Duma requesting him to intervene.

- Ms Sibonelo Ndwandwe apparently received the bad news on the 28th March informing her about the death of her husband Sihle Makhaye (44). Makhaye died in Russia.
- The wife says her husband was apparently recruited to fight in the war between Russia and Ukraine but was secretive about the whole matter.
- Following the death of her husband, she has requested MEC Duma to assist to ensure the repatriation of the mortal remains of her late husband.
- The wife sent through correspondence which details options such a military burial in Russia.
- Or the cremation and repatriation of the mortal remains - with expences covered by the wife.
- All of the above will be conducted in the presence of a family who must fly to Russia.
- The wife lives in an mud house and RDP house built by government shortly after 1994
- MEC Siboniso Duma has tasked HoD Human Settlements. Max Mbili, to lead a team from Human Settlements to do the profiling of the family.
- The MEC will be visiting the family as soon as his diary permits. (time will be confirmed)
- He is liaising with relevant leaders in government and outside government. In particular, the MEC is liaising with the Minister of International Relations, Ronald Lamola, to seek guidance.
- Duma has mandated her office to bridge the gap between the wife and all spheres of government.
- In addition, Duma has wished the whole family strength during this difficult period.

Ends

Enquiries

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