



GAUTENG PROVINCE

COMMUNITY SAFETY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEC of Community Safety in Gauteng, Ms. Faith Mazibuko, meets with Vlakfontein Community Members and has a meet and greet with the SAPS Provincial Commissioner Lieutenant General Elias Mawela on Monday 10 June 2019

The Gauteng MEC of Community Safety, Faith Mazibuko, met with Vlakfontein community members at her office on Monday, 10 June 2019, following the withdrawal of murder charges by the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) against the remaining suspect Fita Khupe due to lack of conclusive evidence linking him to the death of the 7 murdered Khoza family members.

The community members raised a number of issues relating to their dissatisfaction with the outcome of the court process. The most pertinent issues raised by the community were as follows:

- The change of the court date from 13th June to 7th June 2019 without the community being informed.
- The community wants the charges to be reinstated and a new investigation to be conducted.
- The community expressed their dissatisfaction with how the case was handled and the amount of time it took for evidence to be gathered.
- The community does not accept that there is no evidence to prosecute and convict Fita Khupe.
- The community wants evidence to satisfy themselves that Ernest Mabasa is dead.

The MEC has since tasked a team within the Department of Community Safety to conduct a thorough investigation with the intention of assisting the community to lodge a claim to have the charges against Fita Khupe reinstated. She committed to engage the Justice Ministry on the merits of the case and explore reinstating the charges. She will also engage the MEC of Community Safety in the Western Cape about the death in custody of Ernest Mabasa.

MEC Mazibuko also committed to visit the community of Vlakfontein and hold a public meeting. She will use the meeting with the community to also address other unresolved Gender Based Violence (GBV) cases in Vlakfontein and surrounding areas. Details of the meeting will be communicated as soon as the MEC has received results of the investigation by the Department of Community Safety.

On Monday, 10 June 2019, the MEC also met SAPS Provincial Commissioner, Lit General Elias Mawela and SAPS Senior Management at the SAPS Provincial Offices in Parktown. MEC Mazibuko used the meet and greet to communicate the priorities for the Province.

"Premier David Makhura is concerned about the reputation the Gauteng province has as a "crime capital". Efforts must be intensified to send a strong message that criminals have no place in Gauteng" said MEC Mazibuko.

The MEC highlighted the following as priorities for the province:

- Adequate training of police officers
- Increase police visibility: put in place systems and mechanisms to prevent crime
- Strengthen Community Police Forums and Community Safety Forums
- Target gang violence and drugs
- Implement the National Plan of Action to end Gender Based Violence
- Scale up support for Thuthuzela Care Centres
- Strengthen victim empowerment centres
- Stricter bail conditions
- Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences (FCS) units must be stronger at cluster level
- Scale up #TakeCharge campaign
- Rapid response by police.

"It is of utmost importance that the police uphold the principles of Batho Pele and restore public trust by disassociating themselves from corrupt activities." said MEC Mazibuko.

END

Issued by the office of the MEC for Community Safety in Gauteng. For media enquiries contact Punkie Numa on 083 856 8454. For media releases, speeches and news visit the website: www.gauteng.gov.za

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