



GAUTENG PROVINCE
CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND
TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



MEDIA ADVISORY

Thursday, 29 April 2021

MEC Maile to honour Firefighters on the International Firefighters Day

The International Fire Fighter's Day (IFFD) is commemorated annually on the 4TH of May to appreciate the firefighter's world -wide and to honour those who lost their lives on duty.

This year, Gauteng MEC for Human Settlements, Urban Planning and CoGTA, Lebogang Maile, will host a commemorative breakfast with the Fire Chiefs from all the Fire Stations in the Province. This event will take place on **Tuesday 4th May 2021** in honor and recognition of the commitment and sacrifices made by current and retired firefighters and other emergency personnel from across the Gauteng province. The event will take place at the **Olifantsfontein Fire Station at Ekurhuleni**.

The alarming number of attacks on Fire- fighter personnel and other emergency workers within communities, prompted the **Brotherhood Club** to organize a "Walk against the attacks on Fire-Fighters" on the same day (4 May 2021). Several off-duty Fire-fighters, emergency workers and Police officers that form part of the Brotherhood Club , will partake in the walk with the aim to create greater awareness around these attacks and associated endangerment of emergency personnel.

Not only do these attacks threaten the safety, the lives and property of the emergency workers, but they also deprive these communities of vital medical and other much needed life-saving services. Criminal elements also target these workers to rob them of medical supplies and other equipment.

The tragic death of 3 fire fighters in the Bank of Lisbon building fire in Gauteng during September 2018. has resulted in the commemoration of this day being even more significant. The MEC will award *Special Bravery Medals* to recognize and honor these 3 firefighters and other recipients from the Gauteng Emergency services

Ends

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