



GAUTENG PROVINCE

COMMUNITY SAFETY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

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ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Safety condemns attacks on Law Enforcement Officers

The Gauteng Department of Community Safety condemns with contempt the brutal killing of a police officer and a police reservist who sustained serious injuries over the weekend.

On Saturday, members of the South African Police Service (SAPS) had just held a funeral of a fellow officer in Dobsonville, Soweto who had died of natural causes. At the time of refreshments, a member of the public who was also attending the funeral, fired several shots in the air and a one bullet struck the 40-years-old constable in her upper body. She was rushed to hospital and declared dead upon arrival. The police have since arrested a man aged 55 and he is expected to appear tomorrow at the Roodepoort Magistrate's Court for a possible bail application.

Meanwhile in Mamelodi West Hostel Y Section, a police reservist was seriously injured on Saturday and rushed to a nearby hospital after he was attacked by a group of people while carrying out operations in the area. According a police report, the police apprehended a suspect in possession of drugs during an operation at a hostel. The suspect was then escorted to the police vehicle when suddenly a group of people attacked the members, in the process, freeing the hand-cuffed drug suspect and stealing the member's personal belongings and loaded service pistol. No arrests have been made and investigations are currently underway to bring the suspects to book.

"An attack on law enforcement officers is an attack on the state. The killing of a police constable has robbed us a selfless and dedicated member of our law enforcement agencies.

Our law enforcement officers go beyond the call of duty daily and devote their lives unselfishly to the communities they serve. The department is however relieved that the suspect in this case has been apprehended and I am confident that Justice will be applied accordingly without fear or favour.

It is imperative that the police should work around the clock and leave no stone unturned to ensure that the suspects involved in the mob justice against a police reservist in Tshwane are arrested swiftly.

Importantly, as a department we call upon community members to play an active role in the fight against police killings and urge anyone with information regarding the Tshwane mob justice to report to the nearest police station. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family, friends and colleagues of the fallen constable during these trying times. We also wish a speedy recovery to the reservist.” said departmental spokesperson, Ofentse Morwane

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Issued by the Department of Community Safety in Gauteng. For media enquiries contact Ofentse Morwane on 066 476 0777. For media releases, speeches and news visit the website: www.gauteng.gov.za

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