

MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

29 May 2025

**POLICE MINISTRY COMMENDS South African Police Service FOR REMARKABLE PROGRESS IN OLORATO MONGALE MURDER CASE**

The Ministry of Police commends the South African Police Service (SAPS) for the remarkable progress in the investigation into the tragic and senseless murder of 30-year-old Olorato Mongale.

Olorato Mongale went on a date with her alleged killer who picked her up from her residential complex driving a white VW Polo on Sunday, 25 May 2025. He drove with the victim in the township of Alexandra, proceeded to Kew and between Alexandra and Lombardy West in Johannesburg, this man allegedly murdered Olorato and dumped her body. During investigations it emerged that the VW Polo was fitted with fake registration number plates.

Speaking on behalf of the Ministry, the Minister of Police, Mr Senzo Mchunu expressed the following: "We commend the SAPS National Crime Intelligence Unit, the Anti-Kidnapping Task Team, and all multidisciplinary units involved—including the Gauteng Provincial Investigation Unit, DPCI KZN Tracking Team, Durban Metro Police K-9 Unit, and the private security teams that supported the operation. The seizure of the vehicle allegedly used in this heinous crime and the questioning of its owner, who is currently under police custody, mark a crucial step toward justice. This remarkable progress reaffirms the importance of coordinated intelligence and the collective resolve to combat violent crime in our communities.

This horrific act has deeply shocked and angered the nation. We unequivocally condemn the gruesome and inhumane killing of Olorato Mongale. No one deserves to suffer such cruelty, and our thoughts remain with her family, friends, and community during this profoundly painful time. In the recent past, the Ministry of Police has noted an increase of incidents where women have fallen victims in relationships developed online. We would like to caution young women in particular and women in general to be alert and to be in control when such communication and appointments are made. To all men, this is a plea—simple, urgent, and human: Please, stop killing women.

We echo the SAPS' call to the public: Fezile Ngubane, Philangenkosi Sibongokuhle Makhanya and Bongani Mthimkhulu remain at large and are considered dangerous. We urge citizens to assist law enforcement by sharing their images and reporting any information on their whereabouts. If spotted, members of the public are advised to not go near the suspects, but to instead immediately contact Brigadier Nama immediately on +27 (82) 778-9035.

To the suspects still on the run: hand yourselves over without delay. Justice will be served, and the nation stands united in ensuring that those responsible are held accountable.”

For more information, contact Ministry Spokesperson, Kamogelo Mogotsi on 076 523 0085 or Brigadier Athlenda Mathe, SAPS National Spokesperson on 082 040 8808.