

The Moloko Family

The Tompane Family

Regional Commissioners

CDC for Human Resources

Officials from the Leeuwkop Management Area

All officials of Correctional Services

Representatives of Organized Labour, POPCRU

Fellow Mourners

Programme Director, we are here to pay homage to a dedicated official with an unblemished record of 23 years in the Department of Correctional Services. Mme Eunice Moloko's death greatly pained us, more over the violent manner in which she lost her life, allegedly at the hands of an inmate.

We want to reiterate that no stone will be left unturned in investigating circumstances that led to this tragic incident. The Moloko family correctly awaits answers from the Department of Correctional Services and the internal investigation must be concluded speedily. This will allow closure to the family and enable effective implementation of consequence management for any possible violations of departmental Standard Operating Procedures.

We can never allow a situation where our officials are maimed and killed at their workplace, this contradict what we stand for as Correctional Services. During this month of August, which has been set aside as Women's Month in South Africa, tragic incidents like these, bring into disrepute efforts to heighten the protection of women. This undermines gains that we have made in the fight against gender based violence and femicide.

Officials like Mme Moloko epitomized greatness of an ideal correctional official. This is a new cadre in service who is preoccupied with creating safer communities in South Africa. This cadre carries the task of rehabilitating those who have been rejected by their families and society with honesty and integrity.

Those who we rehabilitate, are criminals who the courts have pronounced as a danger to society and sent them to incarceration. Some officials like Mme Moloko, who serve with distinction, reform and rehabilitate these hardened criminals and ensure that they leave correctional centres corrected and abhorring their previous criminal character.

The work of Correctional Officials often go unrecognised, Mme Moloko and others, have even laid their lives as a result of their commitment towards the safety of their country. It is high time that South Africans recognize the services and sacrifices of our officials in brown uniform. Those who vilify our officials over isolated acts of ill-discipline and shameful conduct, must know that most of our officials, are hardworking and contribute enormously to the course of creating a better and safer South Africa.

To the colleagues of Moloko, we are aware of the pain resulting from her tragic death and how this has impacted on you. We say to you, pick up the spear and continue with the daunting challenge of reforming inmates. Do not allow Moloko's senseless killing to demotivate you from carrying your responsibilities. In her memory and honour, recommit yourselves towards turning Leeuwkop Management Area into a centre of excellence that will be a secure environment for female officials. Position yourselves as officials who will restore the public trust on correctional services in the country.

Your display of strength after this horrific incident and ability to continue with operations at the centre do not go unnoticed, they have allowed the correctional services family to stand strong. Amid the challenges we continue to face as the department of correctional services, we have been encouraged by the resilience of correctional officials. It is through their dedication and sacrifices that we have managed to mitigate against the spread of COVID-19 across all our correctional centres in the country. I want to applaud the contributions of our officials, they never lost focus even under trying times.

To the Moloko Family, we assure you once more that your pain and loss are equally ours. We want to profoundly thank you for sharing Mme Moloko with us for over 23 years. Her name will forever remain etched in our collective memory, for she was an amazing correctional officer.

We will never find enough words which can provide sufficient comfort to her mother, husband, children and her loved ones. We understand that your pain is unbearable, we will continue extending support to the family. We will carry on the legacy of Mme Moloko in the department and always remember her service to the department of correctional services.

To honour and pay tribute to our fallen officials who succumbed to COVID-19 and those who died in the line of duty, all Management Areas are busy erecting Walls of Remembrance. Leeuwkop Management Area will unveil their Wall of Remembrance in due course and Mme Moloko's name will be etched on the wall. Future generations of Correctional officials will know about her commitment and dedication to the mandate of the department.

Allow me therefore programme director, to convey once more, our deepest condolences to the Moloko family. We commit ourselves before you that justice will prevail, the killer of Mme Moloko will be punished severely. Those who might have failed to ensure adherence to adequate security procedures which led to this catastrophic incident, will also not escape harsh punishment from the department.

May the soul of our dear departed colleague rest in peace, she leaves a lasting legacy in the department of correctional services.

I thank you!