

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 12 JANUARY 2021**

**RE: POLICE OFFICERS CHARGED WITH DEFEATING ENDS OF JUSTICE**

The trial against former Deputy Police Commissioner in the North West, General Mzondase Mpenbe and three other senior police officers will commence tomorrow, 13 January 2020, in the High Court of South Africa, North West Division in Mafikeng. The state is expected to make closing arguments before the matter goes for judgement.

They four police officers are charged with defeating and obstructing the ends of justice by allegedly concealing information on circumstances surrounding the death of Modisaotsile Sagalala who died in a police canter when striking miners participated in a wage strike on 16 August 2012. It is alleged they were shot after a confrontation with the police ensued where Sagalala, who had a gunshot wound on the chest and handcuffs at the back, died in a police canter following his arrest with other miners.

His lifeless body was discovered at the temporary detention center that was set by the police in the Lonmin mines, referred to as the Hub, when miners were offloaded to be processed. The body is said to have been certified dead by paramedics at the hub, however police allegedly passed off the body as if he had died in hospital.

General Mzondase Mpenbe and three other senior police officers failed to report this matter to the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) and they misrepresented facts at the Farlam Commission which was set to establish truths surrounding the deaths of miners during the strike.

**Henry Mamothame**

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