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## Media Statement

**16 April 2023**

### **Officials should seek help to deal with personal problems - Shongwe**

The MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Vusi Shongwe is deeply saddened by the latest incident where one of the traffic law enforcement officers was shot and killed by a municipal official yesterday, 15 April 2023 at a well-known lodge outside Mbombela.

It is reported that the deceased was at the time in the company of the wife of the suspect at one of the chalets in the lodge when the incident occurred. The lady was not harmed. The suspect is expected to appear in court soon. Shongwe once more urged members of the security cluster who experience distress to seek professional assistance or bring in families to help resolve disputes, rather than resorting to violence.

He says the number of state firearms used to kill other people, even law enforcement officers, is worrying. He insists that officials should stop viewing these firearms as instruments to solve relationships or familial disputes but as tools of the trade to do their work.

He laments that over the years, there were many cases of killings and suicide committed by some members using the state firearms. He says this needs to change and officials should optimally use wellness services available in government departments.

"We call on our members of security cluster and community members to solve problems through dialogue. Violence is not the way to deal with family issues as there are avenues that include state departments where there are trained professionals who are always readily available to help," says Shongwe.

The MEC is also sending his heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of the deceased.

Ends.

**Issued by the Mpumalanga Department of Community Safety Security and Liaison**

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