



AZAPO

AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION

TO : ALL MEDIA HOUSES FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM : AZAPO SECRETARY FOR PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION

DATE : JUNE 27, 2022

SUBJECT : AZAPO'S RESPONSE TO THE MASSACRE OF 22 CHILDREN IN EAST LONDON.

AZAPO has learned with deep shock and sadness the tragic death of at least 22 school children at Enyobeni tavern in East London, yesterday morning.

AZAPO sends her heartfelt condolences to the families who lost their children in this very unfortunate tragic incident. May the souls of the departed rest in eternal peace and may their families be comforted during this trying time.

AZAPO urges the law enforcement agencies to embark on an intense, comprehensive and speedy investigation, to ensure the uncovering of the truth, cause of death and the unmasking of the people responsible for this tragic massacre of youth.

AZAPO is pleased with the speed with which the Eastern Cape Liquor Board has revoked the tavern owner's liquor licence for allowing and selling alcohol to young people under the age of 18 at their premises. It is great that they are considering the laying of criminal charges as the liquor licence owner allegedly contravened the Eastern Cape Liquor Act.

The immediate closure of the tavern is the only sensible act under the circumstances. The owner must be held responsible for this tragedy, for failing to exercise strict compliance to the applicable regulations. His oversight has led to the unnecessary death of many young people, future leaders of this country.

AZAPO calls for the strict compliance to regulations and liquor act by all taverns and clubs across the country, this tragedy should never be repeated. This tragedy is instructive to the various provincial liquor boards to ensure that they conduct spot checks at the various taverns and clubs for compliance to its regulations and law.

While the investigation processes take place, AZAPO calls on the State and relevant departments to invest in creating alternative forms of entertainment for young people in townships by building decent libraries, sports facilities and arts centres. Our children cannot be forced to resort to destructive forms of entertainment because of lack of infrastructure and alternatives.

Enquiries: Gaontebale Nodoba or Cikizwa Dubula
Telephone: 061 332 4792 / 061 487 2032
Office: Publicity Secretary
Email: info@azapo.org.za
Website: www.azapo.org.za

Office 503 - 5th Floor, Corner House
77 Commissioner Street, Johannesburg 2001
P.O. Box 4230, JOHANNESBURG 2000

May this also be a moment for parents across the country to reflect on their role in society and be more responsible with their children. Our society is degenerating, and it is our responsibility as members of communities to ensure that we restore and instill the positive values that we grew up observing.

We cannot fail our children by relegating our natural responsibility to everyone else. May we learn from this tragic incident and commit to building a better and responsible future for our children.

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Issued by AZAPO Department of Publicity and Information

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