



AZAPO
AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION

TO : ALL MEDIA HOUSES FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM : AZAPO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION

DATE : JULY 05, 2022

SUBJECT : AZAPO SENDS CONDOLENCES TO THE MAGADLA FAMILY

The Azanian People's Organization (AZAPO) joins the Magadla family and the country at large in mourning the loss of life of the 6 year old Khayaletu Magadla. Khaya disappeared into an open manhole while playing with friends in a park in Dlamini, Soweto on 12 June. He was never to be seen alive again.

We cannot begin to imagine the torture of turning the sewer pipes upside down for almost three weeks in a relentless search to find the lifeless body of young Khaya. AZAPO sends her sincere condolences to the Magadla family. May they be comforted during this difficult time. We hope that the successful recovery of Khaya's body has brought some closure to his parents and the community of Dlamini.

We know that the incident of children and adults getting harmed while others perish in manholes is not an isolated one. The government's negligence on infrastructure maintenance, especially in townships does suggest little care for the lives of Black township residents who are mostly affected by this oversight. It is Steve Biko who painfully reminds us that "township life alone makes it a miracle for anyone to live up to adulthood".

This incident and many others indicate to us how correct Biko was in his assessment of the state of townships across the country. Tomorrow morning, many parents will be laying 21 teenage bodies to rest, largely because township life has decided that they are not reaching adulthood.

It is in this context that AZAPO appeals to the government to do better. We have a group of Black people elected by Black people since 1994 on the promise of bettering their conditions of living. It cannot be that they continue to create conditions that destroy the very lives of Black people that put them in power, with the expectation of having that promise fulfilled.

Attending funerals of children is painful, more so when their lives are ended because of failure to exercise care and due diligence. It is for this reason that AZAPO calls for the proper

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enclosure, marking and securement of all manholes, to ensure the prevention of such fatal accidents.

AZAPO hopes and prays that the death of Khayaletu Magadla and that of the 21 young people who will be buried tomorrow and many other young people who die everyday due to government negligence, will heighten the consciousness of the ruling party to the plight of Black people and enable them to do the right thing, step aside and allow patriots to take charge of the country's affairs for the sake of our people and their future generations.

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Issued via AZAPO Department of Publicity Information

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