

Families still devastated by killings

Metro officers mourn deaths of their colleagues

By **Tankiso Makhetha**

The families of two Johannesburg metro cops killed at a roadblock when an alleged drunk driver crashed into them have told of their trauma of losing their loved ones.

Yesterday an emotional wreath-laying ceremony was held at the scene where Winnie Mokgolo, 35, and Sophie Ngoasheng, 45, were killed on Monday.

The pair died when Albert Pretorius allegedly lost control

of his vehicle and crashed into a roadblock mounted by the JMPD (Johannesburg Metro Police Department) officers along Witkoppen Road near Montecasino.

Police spokesman Captain Granville Meyer said Pretorius appeared in court yesterday to face charges of culpable homicide and driving under the influence of alcohol.

Ngoasheng's husband Andrew Damari said his family has been left distraught. "We haven't come to grips with what happened," Damari said.

Ngoasheng is survived by two children aged seven and 12. "It's very difficult for the children because they have lost a mother. They've been receiving counseling because they haven't taken the news of their mother's passing well."

Mokgolo's aunt Gloria Mokgolo said the mother of three was everything to her children. "She was kind and played an important role in our family. Sophie was everything to her children. They are devastated and inconsolable," she said.

She said the family was still



Members of the Johannesburg metro police lay wreaths where their colleagues perished after an alleged drunk driver crashed into officers at a roadblock on Monday. /MDUDUZI NDZINGI

It's hard for the children because they lost a mother

coming to terms with the death and were yet to discuss what would happen to the children. "Sophie was a single parent and now we have to sit down and see how we can

provide a support structure for her children."

Family members and colleagues fought back the tears as two crosses were hammered into the ground where

the metro officers perished.

Johannesburg's public safety MMC Michael Sun said they were looking to introduce programmes that would make policing safer at night.

World Wetlands Day

02 February 2018

Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future
Urban wetlands making cities liveable

World Wetlands Day in 2018 is celebrated under the theme "Wetlands for Sustainable Urban Future"

WHAT IS WETLAND?

Not all land that is wet is wetland. Wetlands are areas such as swamps and marshes, where water saturates the soil, and conditions are favourable to plants which are adapted to anaerobic (low oxygen) soil conditions.

Wetlands are important for the ecosystem as they provide a number of benefits, not only to the environment, but also to our livelihoods. In urban areas, wetlands improve water quality and serve as reservoirs, containing run-offs from roads, rains, roofs and storm water drains. Wetlands also help to reduce and prevent urban flooding.

Working for Wetlands

Through the Working for Wetlands programme, government invested more than R1 billion in the rehabilitation of 1 360 wetlands countrywide between 2004 and 2017.

This has improved or secured the health of more than 64 000 hectares of wetland area, and provided 27 000 employment opportunities.

RAMSAR SITES IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. South Africa currently has 23 Ramsar sites with combined surface area of 557, 028 hectares.

Barberspan, Northwest Province (1)
Blesbokspruit, Gauteng Province (3)
De Hoop Vlei, Western Cape Province (2)
De Mond, Western Cape Province (4)
False Bay Ecology Park, Western Cape Province (22)
Kosi Bay, Kwazulu Natal (8)
Lake Sibaya, Kwazulu Natal (9)
Langebaan, Western Cape Province (7)

Makuleke Wetlands, Limpopo Province (18)
Natal Drakensberg Park, Kwazulu Natal (13)
Ndumo Game Reserve, Kwazulu Natal (14)
Ntsikeni Nature Reserve, Kwazulu Natal (20)
Nylsvley Nature Reserve, Limpopo (16)
Orange River Mouth, Northern Cape (10)
Prince Edward Islands, Western Cape Province (19)
St. Lucia System, Kwazulu Natal (5)
Seekoeivlei Nature Reserve, Free State Province (15)

Turtle Beaches/Coral Reefs of Tongaland, Kwazulu Natal (6)
uMngeni Vlei Nature Reserve, Kwazulu Natal (21)
Verloren Valei Nature Reserve, Mpumalanga Province (17)
Verlorenvlei, Western Cape Province (11)
Wilderness Lakes, Western Cape Province (12)