

# LEBONE COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY CARE **NEWS BULLETIN**

Keeping you Informed

## MOB JUSTICE: PATIENT KILLED INSIDE AN AMBULANCE

**Lesego Mpetla, Information Operator  
Lebone College of Emergency Care ICT  
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Monday evening, 21 November 2022 Gauteng Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel, also known as Green Angels, were under attack in Mshongoville, an informal settlement in Atteridgeville, Pretoria West. This attack occurred while our Green Angels were treating an assaulted patient who was critically injured. Unfortunately, this attack resulted in the patient getting killed inside the ambulance.



Around 19:44 a call was lodged to the Gauteng Emergency Communication Centre, and at around 20:00 an ambulance was dispatched to Mshongoville. Police were requested to escort the response team in order to ensure that they enter the area safely.

When our Green Angels arrived at the scene the patient was already laying on the ground surrounded by the community. The Green Angels managed to initiate treatment and as they were about to leave the scene for the nearest hospital the community members started reacting violently by throwing stones at the ambulance. They continued reacting by barricading the road, preventing the departure of the ambulance. The community demanded justice as the patient is alleged of doing a crime within the community.

Due to the attack, the Green Angels ran for cover. Unfortunately, the attack led to the patient further being fatally assaulted while lying on an ambulance stretcher. Additionally, the ambulance was extremely damaged and some medical equipment was stolen by the attackers. A case has been opened with the police on this matter.

The paramedics who were attacked were taken for medical observation at Kalafong Provincial Tertiary Hospital, and as part of the Employee Health Wellness Programme, they will be attending counselling sessions and will be continuously monitored when they return to their duties as normal.



MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko stated her disappointment and frustration in the attack on healthcare workers whose purpose and job is to provide healthcare to those in need of it. "This is totally unacceptable. We cannot allow society to degenerate like this. Mob justice or taking the law into our own hands cannot be the answer to addressing some of the socio-economic issues affecting communities. There has to be a better way," stated MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko further on stated how serious attacks on EMS personnel are, and ensures that further action should and will be taken to strengthen protection and prevent such incidents from happening to our Green Angels in the future. "Attacks on our personnel have dire consequences as they make it difficult for them to discharge the constitutional mandate to provide access to healthcare services. I will further engage with the Community Safety Department and community structures to see how we can work together to strengthen some of the interventions that are already in place to curb such incidents," explained MEC Nkomo-Ralehoko.

We plea and ask communities to stop attacks on Paramedics. Such attacks have long-term consequences not only for EMS personnel but communities as a whole as this makes it difficult for our Green Angels to perform their duties to serve communities and provide health care.