



Press Statement

03 July 2025

Defend Our Democracy has learned with shock about the brutal killing of Mr Mpho Mafole, the City of Ekurhuleni's group divisional head of corporate and forensic audits.

According to media reports, the 47-year-old was gunned down on Monday evening while driving along the R23 in Kempton Park. Police reportedly discovered Mr Mafole's body inside his vehicle, riddled with gunshot wounds.

Mr Mafole, who was appointed to the position only three months ago, brought with him an impressive track record of public service, including 14 years in the Office of the Auditor-General of South Africa. He was tasked with uncovering financial irregularities and promoting transparency in the City of Ekurhuleni, one of the country's largest municipalities.

The nature of Mr Mafole's work underscored the often-dangerous responsibilities undertaken by those at the forefront of rooting out corruption in our public institutions. Defend Our Democracy condemns this cowardly and violent act as this not only threatens the lives of dedicated public servants but also seeks to intimidate and hinder efforts to build clean and accountable governance, particularly in our municipalities where systemic failures persist.

This tragedy is a stark reminder of the urgent need to strengthen the protection of whistleblowers and anti-corruption officials. Reforms to protect the whistleblowers and those who act against corruption must be expedited. Municipalities and the rest of government must uphold the highest standards of financial oversight and integrity.

Defend Our Democracy extends its heartfelt condolences to Mr Mafole's family, colleagues, and loved ones during this difficult time. We urge law enforcement agencies to bring the perpetrators to justice swiftly.

We call on the Ekurhuleni Metro for clarity on the circumstances surrounding the death of the senior auditor.

For media interviews, contact:

Andries Sibanyoni

Mobile: 071 037 6138