



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Media Statement

To: All Media

News Editors

Embargoed: For immediate release

Date: Friday, 20 February 2026

STATEMENT BY THE KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ON THE SENTENCING OF THE MURDERER OF PRINCIPAL BUSANI KHOMO

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education welcomes the life sentences handed down by the Pietermaritzburg High Court to Sboniso 'Bhongo' Sibiya and Bheki 'Mabhiza' Dube for the brutal murder of Mr Busani Khomo, the Principal of Skhethuxolo High School in Mpumalanga Township, Hammersdale, under Pinetown District.

This decisive judgment brings a measure of justice to the Khomo family, the school community, and the entire Education sector, which was robbed of a dedicated servant who devoted his life to shaping young minds and building a better future for his community.

The Department views this sentence as a strong message that crimes against educators and public servants will not be tolerated, and that the rule of law will prevail over criminality. Schools must remain safe spaces for learning and teaching, not battlefields for violence and lawlessness.

Reacting to the sentencing, the MEC for Education, Siphso Hlomuka, said the outcome affirms the call he made in 2024 for law enforcement agencies to act decisively against those responsible for the killing of Mr Khomo.

"When Principal Khomo was murdered, we said the criminals must be hunted down and face the full might of the law. Today, justice has spoken. This sentence sends a clear message that the lives of educator's matter and that anyone who attacks our schools and those who lead them will pay a heavy price," said MEC Hlomuka.

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Issued by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education

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The MEC further commended the Provincial Murder and Robbery detectives, and all law enforcement partners for their relentless work in tracking down and arresting the perpetrators.

“This conviction demonstrates that the state has both the will and the capacity to protect our education system. We will continue to work with law enforcement to ensure that our schools are safe and that those who threaten the stability of our communities are removed from society,” he added.

The Department reiterates its commitment to building safe, secure, and disciplined learning environments and calls on communities to work with the government in rejecting crime and protecting schools as centres of hope and development.

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