

***INCLUDING ALL INDIVIDUALS WITH  
INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES!!***

To: Honorable President Cyril Ramaphosa  
Office of the Presidency

And To: General Bheki Cele  
Minister of Police

And To: David Makura  
Gauteng Premier  
Gauteng Provincial Government

And To: Sizakele Nkosi Malobane  
Gauteng MEC of Community and Safety

And To: Deputy Minister Hlengiwe Mkhize  
Department of Women Youth and Persons with Disabilities

And To: Commissioner Bokankatla Joseph Malatji  
The South African Human Rights Commission

**Re: Joint statement by Civil Society on the Killing of Nathaniel Julies in Eldorado Park**

On behalf of Down Syndrome South Africa, its member associations, disability and civil society organisations, we extend our condolences to the Julies family.

We issue the following statement and demand the following remedial actions:

- We strongly condemn the killing of Nathaniel Julies, a 16-year old with Down syndrome on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020 in Eldorado Park;
- We take note that apparently two police members have since been arrested in connection with this case;
- All killings are unacceptable but the killing of an innocent, defenseless person with a disability is utterly reprehensible;
- Down syndrome is a genetic condition caused by an extra chromosome 21, known as Trisomy 21. This extra chromosome alters the course of development both physically and cognitively, which includes communication impairment. It is inconceivable how Nathaniel could have been involved in any gang related activity if that is what is being alleged;
- As organisations working in the disability sector we find that there is still large scale exclusion and marginalisation, which entrenches the view that the lives of persons with disabilities is worth less than those without disabilities;
- South Africa signed and ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities in 2007. This places a higher duty on government to protect the lives of all persons with disabilities;
- It is important for citizens to see the ministers and the Johannesburg City take responsibility and enforce the message that criminal conduct of SAPS and the JMPD will not be tolerated;

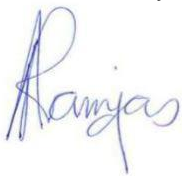
---

**Our members:** DSA Amathole, Free State DSA, DSA Kwa-Zulu Natal, Port Elizabeth DSA, DSA Pretoria/Tshwane, DSA Western Cape, DSA Support Cape, Intathakusa Support Group Emalahleni

## **INCLUDING ALL INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES!!**

- In the interest of all South Africans we call for swift and decisive action for the immediate suspension of the police and JMPD officers allegedly involved;
- That the Independent Police Investigative Directorate, alternatively the Hawks, properly investigate this matter and hold those identified accountable through the actions of the National Prosecuting Authority by bringing them before the courts;
- We demand that no help be granted to police officers allegedly involved;
- That the outcomes of the investigations be made public through a court process;
- That the family of Nathaniel be offered support, including financial and psychosocial support by the state;
- That police stop saying that their members have special skills to deal with persons with intellectual disabilities but start to demonstrate those skills in dealing with persons with disabilities who have limited ability to comprehend and respond to instructions and situations.
- We call upon all law enforcement agencies to ensure that their members are properly equipped and skilled to deal with all South Africans including persons with disabilities.

Yours sincerely



Down Syndrome South Africa

Endorsed by:

Down Syndrome International (DSI), Vanessa Dos Santos, President, [Vanessads123@gmail.com](mailto:Vanessads123@gmail.com)

The South African Disability Alliance (SADA), Melanie Lubbe, SADA Secretary, [Secretariat@sada.org.za](mailto:Secretariat@sada.org.za)  
**“The collective voice of the disability sector in collaboration”**

QuadPara Association of South Africa (QASA); Cheshire Homes S.A; South African National Council for the Blind (SANCB); National Council of and for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD); Epilepsy South Africa (ESA); Disabled Children’s Action Group (DICAG); National Association for Persons with Cerebral Palsy (NAPCP); South African Federation for Mental Health (SAFMH); Muscular Dystrophy Foundation SA (MDSA); South African National Deaf Association (SANDA); Autism South Africa (ASA); Blind SA; Down Syndrome South Africa (DSSA); Uhambo Foundation / Shonaquip; South African National Association of Blind & Partially sighted Persons (SANAB); Occupational Therapy Association of South Africa (OTASA); South African Association of Audiologists (SAAA); Stroke Survivors Foundation (SSF); The Leprosy Mission Southern Africa/RampUp; Dementia SA; Genetic Alliance SA (GA-SA); Quadriplegic & Paraplegic Charitable Trust – South Africa,

Occupational Therapy Association of South Africa (OTASA), Pat de Witt, President, [president@otasa.org.za](mailto:president@otasa.org.za)

Special Olympics South Africa, Ancilla Smith, CEO, [ancilla@specialolympics.org.za](mailto:ancilla@specialolympics.org.za)

---

**Our members:** DSA Amathole, Free State DSA, DSA Kwa-Zulu Natal, Port Elizabeth DSA, DSA Pretoria/Tshwane, DSA Western Cape, DSA Support Cape, Intathakusa Support Group Emalahleni

Non-profit organisation 009-415/ Public Benefit Organisation 930019699