

**SPEECH BY HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF KWADUKUZA
MUNICIPALITY, COUNCILLOR MUZIKAYISE NGIDI AT THE
FUNERAL OF SUPERINTENDENT MARIEMUTHOO “DES”
ARUMUGAM**

Programme Director;

Mrs Samantha Arumugam;

Kyle, Jaden, and Caitlyn;

Arumugam family, friends and relatives;

Fellow mourners;

Ladies and gentlemen:

We gather today to pay our last respects and bid farewell to a true hero, a dedicated public servant, and a dear friend. The late Superintendent Arumugam, will be deeply missed not only by his colleagues in the Traffic and Crime and Prevention Units but also the community at large. “Desmond”, as he was popularly known, was a true ambassador of KwaDukuza Municipality and it is with a heavy heart that I stand before you today to convey our heartfelt condolences.

As we mourn the loss of our colleague, we remember the bravery and dedication he showed every day on our streets. He put his life on the line to ensure our safety, to enforce the laws, and to protect our community. His selfless commitment to duty is an inspiration to us all, and we can only imagine the countless lives he touched and the many families he protected.

The senseless and brutal act of violence that took his life has left us all in shock and outrage. We condemn such acts of violence and pledge to do everything in our power to ensure that justice is served. His death will not deter us from our resolve to work tirelessly to create a safer and more just society for all.

Today, as we say our final goodbyes, we remember Superintendent Arumugam’s bright smile, his infectious enthusiasm, and unwavering dedication to his work. We will cherish the memories of his kindness, his compassion, and his love for his family and community.

As we pick up the fallen spear, we must recommit ourselves to the values that Superintendent Arumugam embodied, the values of courage, integrity, and

selflessness. We must work together to build a community that honours his sacrifice and remembers the price he paid for our safety.

To the family, friends, relatives and colleagues of our fallen hero, I want to borrow from John Donne's poem entitled "**Death, Be Not Proud**". In his poem Donne assure that death is not a conqueror in this case. In the first two and last two lines he says:

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee

Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so;

One short sleep past, we wake eternally

And death shall be no more; Death thou shalt die

Although some may have praised death as mighty and dreadful, Donne consoles us that it is not so. He further assures us that, we will sleep, as our dear Superintendent has slept, and shall wake in eternity where there shall be no more death, for death itself shall have died.

Today's occasion calls upon us to celebrate a life well lived. To honour and remember the kindness, the bravery and commitment to duty that Desmond embodied. Ours is not to cry, but to ensure that his memory lives on, and his legacy continues to inspire us.

In closing, I want to say that our Superintendent may be gone, but he will never be forgotten. His sacrifice will not be in vain, and we will continue to work towards a safer, more just, and more peaceful society for all.

Farewell dear Desmond.

Till we meet again, when we wake in eternity!

Thank you.