

01-07-2017 Thembisile Hani SA – Jerry Mogoe- FF Drowned Flood Rescue Attempt - Update

Mpumalanga flood alert: Courageous firefighter swept away during flood

<http://lowvelder.co.za/368231/mpumalanga-flood-alert-courageous-firefighter-swept-away-during-flood/>

January 7, 2017



Two people in a taxi were swept away by a raging river near Kwaggafontein moments after the taxi driver was heroically rescued by a firefighter.

MBOMBELA – A firefighter of Thembisile Hani drowned today while attempting to save the life of a passenger trapped in a taxi on a flooded low-water bridge close to Kwaggafontein in northern Mpumalanga.

Both the firefighter and the passenger went under when the force of the raging water toppled the taxi onto its side and swept it downstream.

Just before this tragic incident the firefighter rescued the driver from the taxi and carried him to the riverbank. He went back to save the passenger while onlookers screamed with fear from the banks of the river.

The bodies of the passenger, a woman, and the firefighter were recovered downstream just before 16:00 this afternoon. Heavy rain hindered the recovery operation.

This tragedy was confirmed by Mr. Jacques Benade from the Provincial Fire Coordination Unit.

"Our firefighter from Thembisile Hani lost his life after rescuing the driver in returning to rescue the passenger. We mourn this loss and honour him for this selfless act of duty and dedication," said Benade.



Lower Sabie

localised and flash flooding is expected in places over Mpumalanga.

The team from Ehlazeni Disaster Management Centre foresees that the erratic weather of the past week will be even worse next week.

"With the weather being so unpredictable for two or three weeks, we also expect that the Kruger National Park will be hit by flooding. They are on amber alert today. The Sabie River is rising but occupancy is down with the holidays ending," a spokesman of the centre explained.

Mr William Mabasa, acting head of communication of SANParks, said that the southern area of the park has received a lot of good rain since last night, so much "that there is water all over the place".

"In order to ensure that visitors are safe during their stay in the park, we have closed all the gravel roads south of the Sabie River until further notice. We would

He expressed his heartfelt condolences to the family of the firefighter. "He paid the ultimate price in his rescue attempt this morning. We mourn his loss."

He warned that all search-and-rescue disciplines were still on high flood alert and that the public should also heed this call to take extra care.

A warning was issued by the South African Weather Service last night at 11:00 that heavy rain leading to

also want to inform our visitors that the road from Skukuza to Malelane and Pretoriuskop is closed at the Delaport Bridge. Access roads between Skukuza and Lower Sabie are also closed for now until the Sabie River subsides,” explained Mabasa.

Disaster Management asked the public to stick to a golden rule in times of possible flooding: “If you can’t see the road, don’t drive or walk on it as this will endanger your life.”



Skukuza – yesterday and today
 Photograph: Karen le Roux

Brave Fire Fighter Loses Life Attempting to Save Taxi Passenger in Kwaggafontein, Mpumalanga Flood

<http://www.sapeople.com/2017/01/07/brave-fire-fighter-loses-life-trying-rescue-others-mpumalanga-flood/>

Jan 7, 2017 By [SAPeople](#)

MPUMALANGA – A brave fire fighter who had already saved one life, died this morning in Kwaggafontein whilst trying to save the life of another, during the floods in Mpumalanga, South Africa. *Updated: 20h00, 7 Jan 2017*



The fireman’s name has not yet been disclosed. The courageous firefighter – from Thembisile Hani – had already rescued the taxi driver, whose vehicle was stranded on a low-level bridge after the river flooded during during Saturday’s heavy rains.

The fireman managed to get the driver safely to shore before returning to save a female passenger who was left remaining in the taxi. As he was attempting to rescue her, the taxi was pushed over by the force of the water, and rolled over into the river where it was swept

away. Both the fireman and the female passenger were tragically taken under by the force. Their bodies were recovered late this afternoon. ER24 Emergency Medical Service said: "Our deepest condolences to the fire fighter's family, friends and colleagues that risked his life to save others when a car was washed down a river near Kwaggafontein, Mpumalanga this morning."

Jacques Benade from the Provincial Fire Coordination Unit added: "We mourn this loss and honour him for this selfless act of duty and dedication... He paid the ultimate price in his rescue attempt this morning. We mourn his loss."



Fireman, 2 passengers drown after taxi rolls into river Mpumalanga Fireman was attempting to save passengers

At least 33 motor vehicle accidents have been reported in the City of Joburg alone since this morning, related to the downpour.

ER24 called on drivers to exercise caution on the roads which are slippery. Many South Africans are on the road, heading home from the festive season holidays this weekend.

All search-and-rescue operators in Gauteng are still on high flood alert. Motorists and pedestrians are advised that if you cannot see the road, then do not walk or drive on it because it could endanger your life.

Firefighter dies in flood rescue

<http://www.thenewage.co.za/firefighter-dies-in-flood-rescue/>

January 8, 2017

As heavy rains wreaked havoc in several parts of Gauteng, Nkangala Fire division chief Maggie Machete says an investigation will follow the death of one of their rescue workers who died while trying to save a passenger from a minibus taxi that was swept away at Kwaggafontein in Mpumalanga on Saturday.

Firefighter Jerry Mogoe, 31, was in the strong currents flooding the Mohlabetzi River when his safety cable snapped.

His body and that of passenger Engeline Msiza, 26, was retrieved on the same day. "The deceased was one of our firefighters and managed to rescue the driver of the taxi.



DELUGE OF DEATH: Two people died after a white minibus taxi was swept away by floodwater from a bridge in the Frischgewaagd village near Kwaggafontein in Mpumalanga on Saturday. Picture: TWITTER

“One of the other firefighters tried to rescue the other passenger and that’s where everything went wrong,” Machete said.

She said she was still traumatised by the tragedy.

The heavy rains wreaked havoc in many parts of the country and a number of roads had to be closed off.

Mpumalanga was one of the provinces swept by the deluge.

Police spokesperson Brig Leonard Hlathi said the heavy rains started in the early hours of Saturday morning.

A member of the public, Dolly Mthweni, posted a picture on her Facebook page of a white minibus taxi trapped in floodwater on what appeared to be a bridge in Frischgewaagd village.

A nearby informal settlement was also badly affected while several vehicles were reportedly swept away in the floods.

President Jacob Zuma yesterday extended his condolences to the families of those who lost their lives.

The SA Weather Service said the last chances of heavy rain was expected in Gauteng, Limpopo and Mpumalanga yesterday.

The city of Johannesburg's emergency services spokesperson, Robert Mulaudzi, also confirmed reports of flooding around the city including in Driezik Extension 5, Alexandra, Lanseria, Fourways and Paulshof.

A number of roads were reported flooded including Union Road in Kliptown and Main Reef Road in Robertville in the Randburg area.

The heavy rains also caused chaos in November last year. Two bodies, one of a three-year-old Everlate Chauke and another of a woman was found along the Juksei River near the N3.

People living in the Setswetla settlement in Alexandra were forced to rebuild their homes after they was badly damaged in the floods. Some of them were forced to seek refuge at a temporary accommodation station.

KUTULLO MADISHA kutullom@thenewage.co.za

'I saw floods wash away my wife in a taxi' - couple had been married three weeks

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2017/01/09/I-saw-floods-wash-away-my-wife-in-a-taxi-couple-had-been-married-three-weeks>

2017-01-09 Ntwaagae Seleka

Three weeks ago a Mpumalanga man married the woman of his dreams. Now he is planning to bury her.

Johannes Mlangeni battled to hold back tears when he shared the last moments he had with his wife Angelina Msiza, 26, at their home in Frischgewaagd in Kwaggafontein, Mpumalanga.

Msiza drowned with a local fire-fighter aged 31 from the Thembisile Hani municipality who was trying to rescue her from a minibus taxi that was being swept away by heavy floods in the area on Saturday morning.

"It was around 8am when I accompanied her to catch a taxi to work. We were playing and joking and then I carried her on my back. We waited for a taxi which arrived," Mlangeni told SowetanLIVE on Sunday.

"A few minutes later, I checked my phone and saw two missed calls from her. Seconds later, she phoned again, saying I must come quickly to pull them out. I didn't understand what she was saying and phoned her. That is when she cried and said they were stuck in the middle of a flooded bridge," he said.



Johannes Mlangeni speaking about his wife Angelina Msiza who died on Saturday when a taxi she was travelling in was swept away by floods in Kwaggafontein. Image by: Thulani Mbele

Mlangeni said he quickly ran to the bridge and saw a white Toyota Quantum stuck in the middle. He said he phoned his wife, telling her to remain calm as help was coming.

"Fire fighters arrived. Inside the taxi was my wife and the driver. I tried rescuing them but as I got closer to the vehicle, the water became too strong and pushed me back. I was angry with myself because I wanted to do all I could to save my wife and the driver.

"My wife threatened to throw herself into the water but I stopped her. One fire fighter managed to rescue the driver but as he went in to try and save my wife, the water became too strong and swept him away.

"I watched as the taxi was floating in the water with my wife inside, screaming for help. I ran next to it but there was nothing I could do as the water was too strong and high," Mlangeni said.

"I have lost a wife and the mother of our young daughter aged a year and a half. She was my everything. We had many plans together. She was so happy. I would have asked her not to go to work if I had known what was going to happen."

I saw floods wash away my wife in a taxi' - couple had been married three weeks

<http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2017/01/09/i-saw-floods-wash-away-my-wife-in-a-taxi---couple-had-been-married-three-weeks>

By Ntwaagae Seleka | Jan 09, 2017

Three weeks ago a Mpumalanga man married the woman of his dreams but now he is planning to bury her.

Johannes Mlangeni yesterday battled to hold back tears when he shared the last moments he had with his wife Angelina Msiza, 26, at their home in Frischgewaagd in Kwaggafontein, Mpumalanga.

Msiza drowned with a local fire-fighter aged 31 from the Thembisile Hani municipality who was trying to rescue her from a minibus taxi that was being swept away by heavy floods in the area on Saturday morning.

"It was around 8am when I accompanied her to catch a taxi to work. We were playing and joking and then I carried her on my back. We waited for a taxi which arrived.



CAPTION: An emotional Johannes Mlangeni speaking about his wife Angelina Msiza who died on Saturday when a taxi she was travelling in was swept away by floods in Kwaggafontein, Mpumalanga. The picture below was taken at their wedding three weeks ago. Photo: Thulani Mbele

"A few minutes later, I checked my phone and saw two missed calls from her. Seconds later, she phoned again, saying I must come quickly to pull them out. I didn't understand what she was saying and phoned her. That is when she cried and said they were stuck in the middle of a flooded bridge," he said.

Mlangeni said he quickly ran to the bridge and saw a white Toyota Quantum stuck in the middle. He said he phoned his wife, telling her to remain calm as help was coming.

"Fire fighters arrived. Inside the taxi was my wife and the driver. I tried rescuing them but as I got closer to the vehicle, the water became too

strong and pushed me back. I was angry with myself because I wanted to do all I could to save my wife and the driver.

"My wife threatened to throw herself into the water but I stopped her. One fire fighter managed to rescue the driver but as he went in to try and save my wife, the water became too strong and swept him away.

"I watched as the taxi was floating in the water with my wife inside, screaming for help. I ran next to it but there was nothing I could do as the water was too strong and high," Mlangeni said.

"I have lost a wife and the mother of our young daughter aged a year and a half. She was my everything. We had many plans together. She was so happy. I would have asked her not to go to work if I had known what was going to happen."

Mlangeni said maybe if there had been more fire fighters, they could have saved his wife because "we spent almost four hours trying to rescue her. Maybe if a helicopter had arrived, my wife would not have drowned," he said.

Taxi owner Jeremiah Mahlangu said he was at home when his aunt told him about a taxi stuck in the middle of the bridge.

"I was hesitant at first but I later went to check, only to find that it was my taxi. I tried calling tow trucks but could not get any help.

"I watched my vehicle being swept away by the water. We could not find it and only saw the wreckage in the river today [Sunday]."

He said his driver was taken to hospital for observation.

"Lives were lost and I am in pain about what had happened. I sincerely offer my condolences to both families. I am willing to meet with them soon," Mahlangu said.

Police spokesman Brigadier Leonard Hlathi said they had opened an inquest docket.

Man must bury his wife lost in Mpumalanga flood

<http://www.pressreader.com/south-africa/daily-dispatch/20170110/281530815707494>

10 Jan 2017 By NTWAAGAE SELEKA Daily Dispatch

THREE weeks ago a Mpumalanga man married the woman of his dreams. Now he is planning to bury her.

Johannes Mlangeni battled to hold back tears when he shared the last moments he had with his wife Angelina Msiza, 26, at their home in Frischgewaagd in Kwaggafontein, Mpumalanga.

Msiza drowned with a local firefighter, aged 31, from the Thembisile Hani municipality who was trying to rescue her from a minibus taxi that was being swept away by heavy floods in the area on Saturday.

"It was around 8am when I accompanied her to catch a taxi to work. We were playing and joking and then I carried her on my back. We waited for a taxi which arrived," Mlangeni told Times Media on Sunday.

"A few minutes later, I checked my phone and saw two missed calls from her. Seconds later, she phoned again, saying I must come quickly to pull them out.

"I didn't understand what she was saying and phoned her. That is when she cried and said they were stuck in the middle of a flooded bridge," he said.

Mlangeni said he quickly ran to the bridge and saw a white Toyota Quantum stuck in the middle. He said he phoned his wife, telling her to remain calm as help was coming.

"Inside the taxi was my wife and the driver. I tried rescuing them but as I got closer to the vehicle, the water became too strong and pushed me back.

"I was angry with myself because I wanted to do all I could to save my wife and the driver.

"My wife threatened to throw herself into the water but I stopped her. One fire fighter managed to rescue the driver but as he went in to try and save my wife, the water became too strong and swept him away.

"I watched as the taxi was floating in the water with my wife inside, screaming for help. I ran next to it but there was nothing I could do," Mlangeni said.

"I have lost a wife and the mother of our young daughter aged a year and a half. She was my everything. We had many plans together. She was so happy. I would have asked her not to go to work if I had known what was going to happen." — TMG

Newsletter 13 January 2017

FIRE FIGHTER AND ONE PASSENGER DROWNED IN KWAGGAFONTEIN, MPUMALANGA

<http://www.fireandrescue.co/news-jan-13-kwaggafontein.html>

At 10h03 on 7 January 2017, National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) were requested to assist at Kwaggafontein following reports from fire and rescue services that a fire



officer had gone missing during a rescue operation while assisting to rescue persons swept away during flash flooding. NSRI Witbank, NSRI Vaal Dam and NSRI Victoria Lake volunteered to respond and dispatched NSRI swift water rescue teams responding in NSRI rescue vehicles and in NSRI volunteers private vehicles.

On NSRI's arrival on the scene during an extensive search operation on the Klipspruit River the body of the fire and rescue services officer was located and recovered and the body taken into the care of the police and the forensic pathology services.



This tragedy was confirmed by Jacques Benade from the Provincial Fire Coordination Unit. "Our fire fighter from Thembisile Hani, Jerry Mogoe, aged 31, lost his life after rescuing the driver in returning to rescue the passenger. We mourn this loss and honour him for this selfless act of duty and dedication," said Benade. He expressed his heartfelt condolences to the family of the fire fighter.



"He paid the ultimate price in his rescue attempt. We mourn his loss."

Police dive units had also been activated with Police K-9 Search and Rescue units to join the South African Police Services, fire and rescue services and Mpumalanga Government Health EMS. It was reported that a taxi swept off a bridge where

two persons were suspected to be missing and a fire and rescue services officer missing at that scene and possibly other incidents.

It was confirmed then that a team of rescuers had located and recovered the body of a female from that taxi incident and the body taken into the care of the police and the forensic pathology services. The second person suspected to be missing from the taxi incident was confirmed to be safe and the driver of the taxi had been rescued by the fire and rescue teams earlier. A police helicopter joined rescuers on the scene.

NSRI attended to a motor vehicle accident where three females were assisted after rolling their vehicle but they were not injured. As flood waters subsided the situation returned to normal but emergency services remain alert to deal with incidents with flash floods expected to continue in the region.

Sincere condolences are expressed to our colleagues at the fire and rescue services who lost a colleague today and to the families of the fire and rescue services officer and to the family of the female who died in the floods. Inquest dockets have been opened by police. NSRI remained in attendance assisting at hot spots until being released by police commanders from the scene and returned to NSRI bases at the Vaal Dam, Victoria Lake and Witbank at around 20h00.



**Sources: National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI)
Lowvelder**

Newsletter 27 January 2017

HONOURING JERRY MAGOKE MOGOWE, MPUMALANGA

<http://www.fireandrescue.co/news-jan-27-obituary.html>

27 January 2017

A memorial service was held for Jerry Mogowe in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality on 12 January 2017, at 12h00, at Kwamhlanga Fire Station. This was a joint memorial service, together with the taxi passenger, Angelina Mlangeni, following the decision by both the local and the district municipalities and their affected families. Mogowe, a brave fire fighter who had already saved one life, died on 7 January 2017 in Kwaggafontein whilst trying to save the life of another, during the floods in Mpumalanga.



In attendance among others was the minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), Des Van Rooyen, member of the executive committee (MEC), Refilwe Mtsweni, MEC for human settlement, Speedy Mashilo, the district executive mayor, Linah M Malatjie, the local executive mayor, Nomsa Mtsweni, the executive mayor of Victor Khanye, municipal managers for Nkangala District Municipality, deputy chairperson of the national house of traditional leaders, Ikosi Sipho E Mahlangu, chief fire officers from Sekhukhune District, Emalahleni, City of Tshwane and fire officials from Goven Mbeki, Ekurhuleni ,Steve Tshwete and Victor Khanye. Including, traffic officers of South African Police Service (SAPS), representatives of emergency medical services (EMS) and Southern Africa Emergency Services Institute (SAESI), business people, taxi associations, local community and national and local media

Jerry Magoke Mogowe, born on 3 April 1985, was the fifth child of Pebane and Ramolwetsi Mogowe. He completed his primary education at Mannyetha

Primary School and went on to obtain his grade 12 at Mmakopi School. Mogowe later enrolled with De Vries Ambulance Training College to attain his basic ambulance course and become a paramedic. He furthered his qualifications in Rusternburg and obtained his fire fighter one and two, hazmat awareness and hazmat operation.

He joined the emergency services in 2004 as a volunteer at City of Tshwane. Mogowe fell in love with the fire department. In 2012, he was employed as a junior fire fighter at Nkangala District Municipality.

Sadly, Mogowe passed away, while in the line of duty, on 7 January 2017. He is survived by his parents, four sisters and two brothers.

Source: David Masombuka, media liaison, Nkangala District Municipality

