



PROMOTING CULTURE FOR DEVELOPMENT

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Gaborone
Botswana
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12 October ,2004

Broadhurst Police Station
PO Box 40928
Gaborone

Attention: Superintendent L.B. Tshupoeng

**RE: Your request for an Independent report on the cause of death of Shikati
Kamanakao**

Dear Superintendent Tshupoeng,

Our conversation (Tshupoeng/Ramahobo) of October 5th 2004 refers. The Executive Committee met on October 7th, to consider your request for a copy of the report from our pathologist. It was decided not to provide you with a copy for the following reasons:

1. Our pathologist did not work independently from the Police department. He disclosed this at a meeting on September 1,2003 and a letter expressing our concern about this turn of events was written to him on October 27th, 2003. We also noted from the dates and contents of the reports that he had to wait for the Police reports to compile his.
2. The Pathologist informed us in a letter that he did not do the analysis of the watermelon fluid or seeds, only the Police (referred to in his report as Government Chemist Analyst) did this analysis (watermelon fluid is referred to by the Police report as 'stomach contents' only)
3. He had also declined to do an analysis on the clothes of the deceased, which we took to his office on May 14th, 2003. So only the Police department did the forensic analysis of the clothes. He however, observed that further tests on other samples may identify the person/persons who may have precipitated Kamanakao's heart attack.
4. All he and Prof. Odesanmi did was to analyse the tissues from the stomach, and observed that the stomach had some watermelon and seeds.

As a result, it is clear that only your department has information on the forensic analysis of the stomach fluid (watermelon and seeds) and the clothes. Copies of the reports from

our pathologist would then be of less use to you, save for information in paragraph 4 above, specifying that the stomach fluid was actually watermelon fluid and seeds.

What is notable about this case is that, not only were the Police reluctant to investigate, but our Pathologist was, as well (para 2 & 3 above).

The suggestion that what was happening to cause the spills of fluids all over his clothes may have precipitated the heart attack seems to make sense. For this reason, the Committee still insists* that Kgalalelo Dikomang Kenewendo be declared a suspect to explain to the public what actually happened. The fact that the stomach contents are actually watermelon fluid, suggests that Calvin ate the same watermelon, which Kgalalelo had earlier denied to have eaten and later admitted to have eaten before the arrival of Calvin. This in our opinion is where the case rests and we do not understand your reluctance to declare her a suspect.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Lydia Nyati Ramahobo
Coordinator, Kamanakao Association

Cc: Human Rights Defenders