



AUGUST 09, 2017

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **HUMAN TRAGEDY**

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION PARTY WISHES TO CONVEY ITS CONDOLENCES TO MERE MATHEWSELA, THE MOTHER OF THE TWO CHILDREN WHO TRAGICALLY DIED IN THE SUNDAY LATE NIGHT HOUSE FIRE IN LAUTOKA. OUR PRAYERS ARE ALSO WITH SALASEINI MARAMAELEVUKA, WHO LOST HER DAUGHTER AND CLOSE FRIEND, IS RECOVERING AT LAUTOKA HOSPITAL. THE DEATH OF THE 3 YOUNG CHILDREN AND 2 ADULTS IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE HUMAN TRAGEDY, HAS SHOCKED THE PEOPLE OF LAUTOKA AND AS WELL AS PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

“THIS TRAGEDY IS NOT THE FIRST IN LAUTOKA. IN 1997 2 YOUNG EXPATRIATE CHILDREN WERE SIMILARLY BURNT TO DEATH IN WAIYAVI, LAUTOKA.”

THEY WERE ALSO TRAPPED IN THE HOUSE DUE TO THE SECURITY GRILLS AND NEIGHBOURS AND FIREMEN WERE HELPLESS IN TRYING TO BREAK INTO THE HOUSE TO SAVE THEM.

WE ARE SEEING A REPEAT OF SIMILAR SITUATION HERE, WHERE NEIGHBOURERS WERE FRUSTRATED IN REMOVING THE SECURITY GRILLS TO RELEASE THE VICTIMS.

INDEED, IT IS IRONICAL THAT THE CITIZENS IN THIS COUNTRY BARRICADE THEMSELVES IN THE PHASE OF “VIOLENT CRIMES” AND “HOUSE BREAK-INS AND ROBBERIES” EXPERIENCED IN THE COUNTRY WHILST CRIMINALS ARE RUNNING FREE. GENERALLY, PEOPLE DO NOT FEEL SAFE IN THEIR OWN HOMES AND HENCE SECURITY GRILLS.

WHILST WE ARE ALL CURRENTLY FOCUSED ON THE TRAGEDY AND LOSS OF LIVES, IT IS ALSO TIMELY THAT THE AUTHORITIES NAMELY POLICE, FIRE AUTHORITY, OHS, LCC AND OTHER RELEVANT AGENCIES SHOULD SOON MEET TO TAKE URGENT REMEDIAL ACTIONS TO AVOID SUCH HUMAN TRAGEDIES IN THE FUTURE.

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