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For Immediate Release

International police community raises concern regarding arrest of South Africa Police Union President

OTTAWA – The International Council of Police Representative Associations (ICPRA) has written to the South African Police Minister, the Hon. Bheki Cele, to express their concern regarding this weekend’s arrest, in Pretoria, of South African Police Union President Mpho Kwinika, following Mr. Kwinika’s calls to investigate corruption at the senior levels of the South African Police Service (SAPS).

“The international policing community is keeping a close eye on the events in South Africa right now, particularly given the initial reports regarding the treatment that Mpho Kwinika received, both during his arrest, and his subsequent incarceration,” said Mr. Tom Stamatakis, President of ICPRA.

The letter, sent to Minister Cele, notes that all policing organizations are expected to fully respect the rule of law, and to ensure that all accused are afforded their full rights, and that due process is strictly observed.

“I have known Mr. Kwinika for a number of years, and in my experience, he is a passionate proponent for ethical and honest policing, both in his home country of South Africa, and around the world,” said Mr. Stamatakis. “His advocacy on behalf of his members has been a tremendous asset to our international organization, providing our policing community with a very necessary perspective.”

“I’ve asked Minister Cele to ensure that Mr. Kwinika can expect to be treated fairly throughout this difficult process, in accordance with the rule of law, and democratic norms. I have every expectation that will certainly be the case, but we will be watching closely.”

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