

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CORONERS ACT 1997

NOTIFICATION OF INTERIM FINDINGS
Inquiry into a residential house fire in Bonner; and
Inquests into deaths arising from the fire
[2018] ACTCD 14

I, **PETER JOHN MORRISON**, a Coroner for the Australian Capital Territory hereby notify that in respect of the inquests into the manner and cause of the death of:

ANNE WACHERA MUHORO (CD 43 of 2018)
EZVIN MUNENE MUGERA (CD 44 of 2018)
FURAHA MURATHIME MUHORO (CD 45 of 2018)

And having decided on my own initiative to hold an inquiry into a fire at:

6 PETER COPPIN STREET, BONNER (CF 1 of 2018)

I make the following interim findings:

1. A fire in a residential house located at **6 PETER COPPIN STREET, BONNER** in the Australian Capital Territory was notified to ACT Fire and Rescue at about 8:45am on 19 February 2018. There were multiple seats of fire in the premises. The fire was not the result of an accident.
2. **ANNE WACHERA MUHORO** (born 4 June 1973) died on 19 February 2018 at 6 Peter Coppin Street, Bonner in the Australian Capital Territory. The cause of Ms Muhoro's death identified at post mortem examination was the effects of fire (inhalation of products of combustion and burns).
3. **EZVIN MUNENE MUGERA** (born 27 July 2009) died on 19 February 2018 at 6 Peter Coppin Street, Bonner in the Australian Capital Territory. A post mortem examination undertaken of Master Mugeru was unable to ascertain the cause of his death.
4. **FURAHA MURATHIME MUHORO** (born 9 May 2012) died on 19 February 2018 at 6 Peter Coppin Street, Bonner in the Australian Capital Territory. A post mortem examination undertaken of Miss Muhoro was unable to ascertain the cause of her death.

Comments

5. It is the opinion of the forensic pathologist who undertook the post mortem examination that the evidence strongly suggests that Master Mugeru and Miss Muhoro were deceased at the time the fire took hold.

6. The police investigation was initially focussed on whether the fire and deaths were intentionally caused by some third party. I have now been advised that Police have found no evidence of any third parties' involvement in the deaths of these three people.
7. I have now ordered an inquest brief of evidence be prepared. Further decisions about the conduct of the inquests and inquiry will follow upon consideration of that material.
8. Given the public interest and concern in relation to the circumstances of these deaths I direct that my interim findings be published on the Court website.

DATED 25 September 2018

**P.J. MORRISON
CORONER**