



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
MEDIA RELEASE**

1st June 2018

**To: All Media Houses,
Editors, Journalists, Communicators and
The Public**

**STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE MEC MAPULA MOKABA-PHUKWANA ON
INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY 2018**

The 1st of June annually marks the International Children's Day. We join the international community in celebrating this day by calling upon all and sundry to give children the love, warmth and protection of parents and society at large. It is through providing the best possible conditions for their nurturing that we will bolster a society that is more prosperous, have self-confidence and remains determined to continue assuring our nation's sovereignty and position amongst nations of the world.

As the Child Protection week draws to an end, I wish to remind everyone that caring and protecting our children has no overtime, it is a *'twenty four seven three hundred and sixty five days'* job, there is no leave of absence or break. Let us be there for them all the time. Amongst the activities we embarked upon as the Limpopo Department of Social Development that included the official launch of the Provincial Child Protection Week, I have taken time to visit Early Childhood Development Centers around Polokwane to interact with the kids in demonstrating that as adults we should give these children love, care and protection. We must not be the ones who hurt them.

Today as province we welcome the National Department in our Bela Bela local office as part of the advocacy programs held across the length and breadth of the province and country, to educate and mobilize children and communities to take responsibility towards their protection and care. We continue with such programs all year long, where we visit schools and engage various groups within communities.

I once again make a stern warning to perpetrators of child abuse that we will work around the clock to ensure the absolute wrath of the law prevails, you must and will be punished. Acts of abuse to children and the most vulnerable in society remain nothing but cold cowardice symptoms of how little and shallow a human, the abuser is.

Let us bring abuse to a stop!

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