

MEDIA STATEMENT

To all reporters and editors

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For immediate release

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CONDEMNS THE RAPE OF AN ELDERLY WOMAN WHO IS WHEELCHAIR BOUND

The Limpopo Department of Social Development has urged communities to always ensure that older persons and people living with disabilities are protected and cared for. This after a 47-year old man allegedly raped a 92-year old wheelchair bound woman at Hoveni village outside Tzaneen. Police say the victim was asleep in her house when the suspect forced entry and allegedly committed the act. The suspect is due to appear before the Lenyenye Magistrate's Court today.

MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale says this is a clear violation of the Older Persons Act which among others intends to deal effectively with the plight of older persons, protection, maintenance of their status, rights, well-being, safety and security.

"Incidents of this nature also strips away the rights and dignity of the vulnerable groups of society and as a society we need to self-introspect on how we treat the elderly and persons with disabilities. It can not be that abusers also start to attack the defenseless people in this manner. Social workers have started providing psychosocial support to the affected parties. We call for the court not to grant bail to the suspect until his case is finalized and a harsher punishment to be meted out." Says MEC Rakgoale.

Issued by the Department's Communications Unit. For enquiries, kindly contact Spokesperson Witness Tiva on 0716099090.

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