

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MEDIA ADVISORY

TO ALL MEDIA

30 AUGUST 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NDALANE CONDEMNS THE DUMPING OF A NEWBORN BABY

The MEC responsible for Social Development, Ms Nandi Ndalane has condemned the dumping of a newborn baby at Mariveni village outside Nkowankowa in Tzaneen. The matter was brought to the attention of the Department recently.

According to information, a newborn baby boy was found by a passerby, abandoned under a bridge, and wrapped in a plastic bag. The baby was swiftly taken to Mariveni Clinic for medical attention and was later admitted at Letaba hospital where he is currently in a stable condition. Condemning the incident, Ndalane said: "It is unacceptable that the precious life of the newborn baby was disregarded in such a way. Newborn babies deserve protection, care, and comfort and not to be exposed to any form of danger and harsh conditions. It is a miracle that the baby survived the cruel incident."

She added that mothers who are unable to care for their newborn babies need to remember that Government has options available to them. "Mothers have an option of putting their children up for adoption and the Department has facilities such as Child and Youth Care Centres, where unwanted children can be taken in and cared for. "We are a caring government and, in the event, where mothers are unable to look after their children, we will be able to intervene and protect these precious lives for as long as it is needed." Ndalane added that the Department will strengthen adoption awareness programmes to provide much needed information, which will save the lives of innocent babies being born unwanted. Upon being discharged from hospital the baby will be placed at Holy Family Child and Youth Care Centre.

For further information contact Joshua Kwapa Department of Social Development Media Liaison Officer 066 497 6282