



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO ALL MEDIA

06 MAY 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NDALANE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SPIKE OF GBVF INCIDENCES DURING WEEKENDS

The MEC responsible for Social Development, Ms Nandi Ndalane has expressed grave concern over incidences of gender based violence which appear to peak during weekends. In the last weekend according to Police reports, five incidences were reported including those involving, minors mentally handicapped as well as physically handicapped victims.

In the first reported incident which happened on Saturday, an 18-year-old son was murdered and had his body dismembered allegedly by his 48-year-old mother. The incident happened at Leshikishiki village in the Lebowakgomo Policing area. In the second incident which occurred again on Saturday, a 16-year-old girl was raped while walking towards Steve Biko Park in Seshego Zone 3. The Police report that the victim who was walking to school was accosted by a suspect who was wielding a knife, dragged her into the bush and allegedly raped her. She later managed to get assistance from a member of the community and a case was opened at Seshego Police station.

Another 16-year-old was allegedly raped by unknown suspects in Namakgale. According to Police reports, the victim had boarded a taxi with her friend at Lulekani Policing area heading to Majeje village. The taxi apparently dropped them off before they reached their destination and they had to walk.

They were then, approached by two unknown men who produced a firearm. The Police report that, the victim's friend managed to escape while the victim was allegedly dragged into the bush and raped. The suspects are still at large.

Still on Saturday, the Police mounted a search for the known suspect who allegedly raped a 17-year-old mentally disabled girl at Lunungwi village. According to Police report, the suspect was apparently caught in the act by members of the community but managed to escape.

In another incident which happened in Dididi village in Thohoyandou yesterday, a 21-year-old woman was allegedly raped by her ex-boyfriend. According to Police reports, the duo were at a local tavern when the suspect apparently requested the victim who is six-months pregnant to accompany him to his residence to change clothes. Upon arrival, the suspect allegedly produced a knife, threatened the victim and raped her.

Reacting to these incidences, Ndalane expressed concern that over the last few months there had been a concerning trend of the spike of gender based violence incidences which occur particularly over the weekends. "While our observation is not based on scientific statistical analysis, our observation is that many of these incidences appear to be on the high during weekends. It is of grave concern to us that young girls are becoming perpetual victims of rape," observed Ndalane. She added that these sexual assaults on young women destroy their future and leave life-long scars which become difficult to cure.

Ndalane called on men in the province to take a stand against gender based violence. "It cannot be that our young women are afraid of walking in the streets over the weekends because some men appear to be on rampage in attacking and sexually assaulting these young women. Men of our province need to become protectors of women and children and refrain from attacking them," She said

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