



**LIMPOPO**  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

---

DEPARTMENT OF  
**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**TO ALL MEDIA**

**23 JULY 2024**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **RADZILANI WELCOMES THE LIFE IMPRISONMENT OF A RAPIST**

The MEC responsible for Social Development, Ms Florence Radzilani has welcomed the life imprisonment handed down against a 38-year-old man by the Tzaneen Regional Court yesterday.

The conviction and the sentence came after a 38-year-old convict raped his 11-year-old niece between September 2021 and February 2022. It emerged during the trial that the victim disclosed the ordeal to her 20-year-old sister who reported the incident to their father. The father turned a blind eye to the incident which led to the sister attempting to report the matter to the Police where the convict threatened to kill both the victim and the sister.

It was further revealed that the victim reported to her sister about the persistent ordeal at the hands of the convict upon which her sister advised her to report the ordeal to her teacher. Police were then notified, and a case of rape was registered and then transferred to the Family, Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offenses Unit.

“It is deeply concerning to hear about such a heinous crime committed against a child. Protecting children from such perpetrators is paramount and it is essential to have strict measures in place to prevent such incidents from occurring,” Said Radzilani. She added that families have a vital role to play in safeguarding their children and should not tolerate any form of abuse especially when it involved a family member.

Welcoming the sentence, the MEC expressed contentment that life imprisonment was appropriate and congruent with the crime committed.

She called on society to create a safe environment where children feel comfortable reporting any incidents of abuse without fear. “Education and awareness about child protection should be promoted to prevent such tragic incidents from happening in the future,” said Radzlinani.

**For further enquiries contact**

**Joshua Kwapa**

**Department of Social Development Media Liaison Officer**

**066 497 6282**