



# LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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DEPARTMENT OF  
**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**TO ALL MEDIA**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEC RADZILANI HAILS LIFE IMPRISONMENT IMPOSED ON A RAPIST**

MEC responsible for Social Development, Ms. Florence Radzilani, has hailed the life imprisonment sentence imposed on a 33-year-old, Kehuliso Mafune for raping a 17-year-old girl, calling it a significant step towards justice and a crucial deterrent against gender-based violence.

MEC Radzilani's reaction follows a rape incident which occurred in September last year at Makungwi village. According to Police reports the victim was with her male friend walking from a church conference. A man approached them from behind and pointed a firearm at them. The two apparently tried to run away, however, the victim fell and the suspect dragged her away and raped her. The friend went back to church and informed security personnel about the incident while also providing the description of the suspect. The matter was reported to Mphephu Police while the docket was transferred to Makhado Family violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences for further investigation. The suspect was later traced and arrested the same day of the incident.

MEC Radzilani expressed her relief and commendation at the ruling handed down by Dzanani Regional Court, highlighting the importance of holding perpetrators accountable. “This sentencing sends a strong message that such heinous acts will not be tolerated in our society,” she said. The justice system must act decisively to show that offenders will face serious consequences for their actions.”

MEC Radzilani’s reaction to this sentence comes during the last week of October Social Development Month, a time dedicated to recognizing the efforts of social workers in promoting the well-being of vulnerable populations, including women and children. “This month serves as a reminder of the crucial role that social workers play in our communities, advocating for those who cannot advocate for themselves,” Radzilani said. She added that: “Together, we must continue to work towards a society free from violence and fear, and we must support our children by creating safe environments for them to thrive.”

She further emphasized that while the sentence is a significant victory in the fight against sexual violence, it is essential for the community to remain vigilant. “We must all take a stand against gender-based violence and support initiatives that empower survivors and educate our communities. As we observe October Social Development Month, let us reaffirm our commitment to the safety and well-being of our children,” She expressed.

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