

## MEDIA ADVISORY

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### LIMPOPO PREMIER TO CONVENE URGENT EXTENDED EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AMIDST INCREASE IN CASES OF RITUAL MURDER, GENDER- BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE

Limpopo Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba will convene an urgent special Extended Executive Council meeting on Tuesday, 12 August 2025, to deal with the alarming increase of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) and, possibly, ritual murder cases, especially in the Vhembe District since the beginning of August 2025.

The South African Police Service in Limpopo has reported over ten horrific GBVF murder cases just in ten days, this month, with some committed immediately after the President Matamela Ramaphosa's message of hope during the recent commemoration of Women's Day Commemoration in Nkawkwa.

Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba expressed her devastation and anger towards these gruesome incidents: "There is absolutely something wrong in our province especially in Vhembe District. Such horrific murders cannot be normalised. We have lost our moral compass and urgent, substantial intervention is needed to halt this alarming trend. Some of these cases seem to be linked to ritual murder. The convening of the Executive Council is crucial in developing a strategy that involves all stakeholders in Vhembe, especially focusing on men and their role in combating violence."

Premier Dr Ramathuba emphasised the urgency of this situation: "If we do not take drastic action in Vhembe, we risk losing the opportunity to effectively combat this scourge. We must consult widely with traditional leaders, spiritual and religious leaders, traditional healers and civil society organisations to ensure a collective response. Men must rise and act decisively against the perpetrators of these horrific acts."

The Extended Executive Council meeting will take place at 16:00 on 12 August 2025, where directions will be provided regarding the course of action to be taken.

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Issued by the Limpopo Provincial Government