



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
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DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MEDIA STATEMENT

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MEC Florence Radzilani Expresses Dismay Following Two Horrific Gender-Based Violence Incidents over the weekend

The MEC responsible for Social Development in Limpopo, Ms Florence Radzilani, has expressed deep anguish and dismay following two harrowing incidents of gender-based violence (GBV) that took place over the weekend, resulting in the brutal deaths of two women in the Mopani district.

These latest tragedies occurred shortly after MEC Radzilani concluded a day-long visit to five families whose loved ones suffered brutal acts of GBV. The visits followed a Special Executive Committee meeting convened to address the escalating scourge of gender-based violence across the province, particularly in the Vhembe district. MEC Radzilani had been tasked with visiting affected families to offer support and assess the extent of trauma and socio-economic impact left in the wake of these heinous crimes.

In the first incident, a 36-year-old woman from Shawela village in Giyani was found in a pool of blood with multiple stab wounds.

According to police reports, the victim had an altercation with her boyfriend, who allegedly stabbed her before fleeing the scene. The suspect, who resides in Shawela RDP, is still at large, and a manhunt is underway.

In a separate incident, a 34-year-old man was arrested and is expected to appear before the Kgapane Magistrate's Court. He is accused of killing his 24-year-old girlfriend at Ga-Patamedi Block 5. Police were alerted to the scene and found the young woman's lifeless body covered with a blanket, bearing visible scratch marks on her face and neck. It is reported that the couple had an altercation earlier, and the victim's brother, who attempted to intervene, later returned to find her deceased. Emergency services confirmed her death on the scene.

Reacting to these appalling acts, MEC Radzilani said: "It is with great pain and dismay that we witness yet another set of brutal killings of women, even during August Women's Month when we are meant to celebrate, honour, and protect women. It is unfathomable that individuals entrusted to love and care for these women are the very ones responsible for their deaths. These acts of brutality must be condemned in the strongest possible terms."

The MEC has called on communities to rise and stand united against gender-based violence. She urged anyone with information about perpetrators to report them to law enforcement agencies so they may face the full might of the law.

"There is no justification for violence in relationships. Disagreements do not have to end in bloodshed. Professional support services, including social workers, are available to help mediate and assist couples in conflict. Resorting to violence only brings devastation and misery to families and communities," she added.

MEC Radzilani further emphasized the need for the harshest permissible legal penalties for perpetrators of GBV and committed the department's continued support to affected families through psychosocial services.

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