



LIMPOPO
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DEPARTMENT OF
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MEDIA STATEMENT

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RADZILANI HEARTBROKEN FOLLOWING THE RAPE OF A MINOR BOY

The MEC responsible for Social Development, Ms Florence Radzilani has expressed outrage and heartbreak following the rape of a 13-year-old minor boy allegedly by a 24-year-old woman at a shelter in Musina recently.

According to police reports, the young victim was passing by the shelter when the suspect, a 24-year-old woman, apparently lured him inside. Shockingly, the suspect was apparently found naked, lying on the ground, and allegedly proceeded to touch the boy inappropriately before allegedly subjecting him to rape. An eyewitness, a resident at the shelter, saw the incident as they were going to the dustbin and promptly alerted the shelter's caretaker. The matter was immediately reported to the police, who arrested the suspect and are now investigating this tragic case.

Reacting to the incident, MEC Radzilani uttered that, we cannot find words sufficient to express our grief and outrage over this violation of a child's innocence and the grievous harm inflicted upon him.

“It is particularly painful that amid the nation's observance of Women’s Month a time meant to celebrate and honor women such grievous acts are being committed by women, who are supposed to be protectors, nurturers, and sources of love and safety for our children. This incident starkly contradicts the values we uphold and highlights the urgent need for justice, accountability and renewed efforts to protect our vulnerable populations from gender-based violence,” said Radzilani

She condemned the incident in the strongest possible terms and call for swift justice for the young boy. “No child should ever endure such suffering and we stand in unwavering support of efforts to combat gender-based violence in all its forms,” she added.

Meanwhile Radzilani welcomed the recent sentencing of a 34-year-old man to 20 years imprisonment for raping three women in separate incidents between 2012 and 2018 at Mentz village, within the Mankweng policing area. It was revealed during the trial that the perpetrator used dangerous weapons to threaten and rob his victims before assaulting them. “This sentence sends a clear message that such heinous crimes will not be tolerated and it serves as a critical deterrent to would-be rapists and criminals,” said Radzilani

Radzilani expressed that government remains committed to fighting gender-based violence and ensuring that justice prevails for all victims.

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