



**LIMPOPO**  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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DEPARTMENT OF  
**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**TO ALL MEDIA**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEC Radzilani welcomes life imprisonment for rape: Justice served after five years.**

The MEC responsible for Social Development, Ms Florence Radzilani has welcomed the sentencing of a 44-year-old Poulos Ngwepe to life imprisonment for the heinous rape of a 13-year-old minor. This case, which took five long years to reach its conclusion, brings finality to a matter that some may have doubted would see justice served.

According to police reports, the incident occurred at Ga-Ramoshoane village in the Matlala policing area when the young victim went outside her house to fetch a bucket. The perpetrator, forcibly grabbed her, covered her mouth and took her to his residence where he committed the assault. The Police further report that the perpetrator threatened the victim with death should she disclose the incident. The victim however reported the matter to her grandmother who reported the matter to the Police.

The matter was referred to Seshego Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit for investigation. The perpetrator was arrested and later released on bail. Following a lengthy court process the perpetrator was convicted of rape and sentenced to life imprisonment

Reacting to the sentence MEC Radzilani expressed relief and confidence in the justice system's ability to deliver fair and firm verdicts in cases of gender-based violence and crimes against minors.

“We condemn unequivocally any form of gender-based violence and attacks on children, especially by men old enough to be their fathers. Such acts are a betrayal of the trust placed in men to be protectors, not predators,” said Radzilani.

She added that the life imprisonment is not only a victory for the victim and her family but also a message that such crimes will not be tolerated in our society. “We hope it serves as a deterrent to would-be offenders and encourages men to stand against the violation of women and children. It is our collective responsibility to foster a safe environment where all children can grow, learn and thrive free from violence and abuse,” expressed Radzilani.

The Department of Social Development remains committed to working with law enforcement, communities and all stakeholders to eradicate gender-based violence and to ensure that justice prevails for every victim.

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