

Media Statement
To All Editors and Reporters
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PREMIER DR RAMATHUBA WELCOMES LIFE IMPRISONMENT SENTENCE FOR RAPE OF 101-YEAR-OLD

The Premier of Limpopo Dr Phophi Ramathuba has warmly commended the South African Police Service (SAPS) following the recent sentencing of Mahlangu Johannes Abram to life imprisonment for the rape of a 101-year-old woman in Zaaiplas. This verdict marks a significant breakthrough in the battle against heinous crimes, particularly those targeting the most vulnerable members of our society.

Premier Dr Ramathuba expressed her relief and gratitude for the diligent efforts of the SAPS, especially Constable Victoria Phala, whose tireless work ensured that the perpetrator was brought to justice.

"While this sentence cannot erase the pain suffered by the centenarian, it serves to bring closure to similar cases and reinforces our commitment to protecting those most at risk," she stated.

The Premier emphasised the Limpopo government's pledge to stand in solidarity with victims and uphold the values of care and respect. She said as October celebrates the older persons this sentence comes at the right time.

On a visit to the victim on her birthday in August 2025, Premier Dr Ramathuba sought to assure her that the government remains committed to the safety and well-being of all residents, especially the elderly. This case serves as a reminder of the urgency with which government must address crimes against vulnerable individuals.

Considering this sentencing, Premier Dr Ramathuba has called upon the SAPS to continue their exemplary work in safeguarding communities and urged the judiciary to uphold the rule of law by delivering appropriate sentences for such serious offenses.

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