

Media Statement
To All Editors and Reporters
13 November 2025

PREMIER DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA SENDS CONDOLENCES TO THE MAHLANGU FAMILY

Limpopo Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, has expressed her profound sadness and heartfelt condolences to the Mahlangu family following the passing of Gogo Nomxhibelo Nelly Mahlangu, a 102-year-old gender-based violence survivor from Zaaiplaas, Sehlakoana New Stand. Gogo Mahlangu passed away peacefully on Wednesday, 12 November 2025.

Gogo Mahlangu captured the hearts of many South Africans for her remarkable strength, courage, and resilience in the face of unimaginable adversity. Despite being subjected to a horrific act of gender-based violence at the age of 101, she chose not to be defined by her pain but by her unwavering spirit and determination to live on. The perpetrator of the heinous crime was subsequently sentenced to life imprisonment for rape and an additional three years for housebreaking.

"We are deeply saddened by the passing of 102-year-old Gogo Mahlangu, and we join the Mahlangu family and the entire Zaaiplaas community in mourning this remarkable woman. When we visited her during her 102nd birthday celebration, we were inspired by her courage and the warmth she radiated despite all she had endured. Little did we know that it would be our final interaction with her. May her gentle soul rest in eternal peace," said Premier Dr Ramathuba.

Premier Dr Ramathuba also commended the South African Police Service investigating team, led by Warrant Officer Phala, for their unwavering dedication and professionalism in ensuring that justice was served. She further applauded the judiciary for acting decisively to ensure that the perpetrator faced the full might of the law. It is particularly poignant that Gogo Mahlangu passed away just a month after the sentencing, having lived long enough to witness justice being done in her case.

The Premier extended her appreciation to the Mahlangu family and the Zaaiplaas community for the love and support they provided to Gogo Mahlangu during her lifetime, and called on society to continue honouring her legacy by standing firm against all forms of gender-based violence.

End.

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