



**LIMPOPO**  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**DEPARTMENT OF**  
**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**TO ALL MEDIA**

**19 MARCH 2026**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEC RADZILANI INVESTIGATES FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMME AT GA-PHAAHLA**

The MEC responsible for Social Development, Ms Florence Radzilani, has expressed deep concern over recent allegations of irregularities and bias in the distribution of food parcels by the Department at Ga-Phaahla this week. These allegations have ignited a frenzy on social media, posing a risk to the integrity and noble purpose of the programme aimed at alleviating poverty and hunger among vulnerable communities.

The Department of Social Development is actively engaged in a province-wide programme to distribute food parcels as part of its ongoing efforts to eradicate poverty and enhance food security for poor families with no substantial access to nutritious food. Prior to beneficiary selection, the Department conducts an intensive assessment process, led by trained social workers and community development practitioners, in close consultation with local stakeholders. Only after thorough verification that identified beneficiaries meet all required criteria does the Department proceed with distribution.

Regrettably, the distribution at Ga-Phaahla has been marred by allegations of bias, irregularities and potential fraud. In response, MEC Radzilani has directed an urgent and comprehensive investigation into the beneficiary identification process.

The purpose of this investigation is to verify that assistance has only been allocated to deserving families and to identify any irregularities or misconduct. The MEC has assured the public that should the investigation uncover evidence of fraud, bias, or misconduct, stern disciplinary actions will be taken against those implicated.

MEC Radzilani has committed to providing a full report on the findings by or before 9 April 2026 and has assured the community that the outcomes will be made public. Additionally, the MEC will engage the Department of Corporate Governance, Human Settlements, and Traditional Affairs to follow up on the need for RDP housing for the family of six members identified by Kgoshi Phaahla, who currently reside in a shack.

The Department remains open to further engagement with Kgoshi Letsiri Phaahla and other community leaders to clarify any misunderstandings and to continue working collaboratively towards the shared goal of serving the people of Limpopo with integrity and compassion. She wishes to clarify that her recent courtesy visit to Kgoshi Phaahla was undertaken out of respect for traditional leadership and in an effort to foster a constructive working relationship between the Provincial Government and local authorities.

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