



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MEDIA STATEMENT

Department condemns rape of 1-year old by her teenage cousins

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Embargo: None

The Department of Social Development has regrettably learnt of the horrible incident of severe violence against children in Limpopo, in which two boys, aged 10 and 15 old boy raped their one-year-old cousin at Xihoko village outside Tzaneen. This after the arrest of an 84-year-old man, who allegedly raped an 11-year-old girl at Bolobedu. We condemn these acts of violence against vulnerable children in the strongest possible terms.

These incidents occurred only four days after the closing of National Child Protection Week celebrations. Whilst everything is being done to sensitise communities about the rights of children; the importance of reporting any incidence of neglect or abuse and the importance of protecting children within a community, such incidents still, unfortunately, occur.

In the case of the two young boys raping their baby cousin, it may very well have been the cycle of sexual abuse repeating itself. The Department once again implores communities to report these cases and parents are urged to know at all times where their children are during the day or night. Where molestation or rape is suspected, parents or guardians should take immediate action by seeking professional help from their nearest social workers, who know how to handle the situation. In this particular instance, both the victim and the perpetrators fall under the jurisdiction of the Child Care Act and Child Justice Act and all will be done to ensure that the children and their guardians receive therapy and are given the necessary parental skills.

Let us stop the cycle of abuse.

Working together to protect children.

End.

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