



community safety,  
security & liaison  
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## Media Statement

**24 August 2020**

### **Shabalala calls on women NOT to stay in abusive relationships**

As part of combating gender based violence (GBV), Mpumalanga MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Ms. Gabisile Shabalala has called on women not to stay out of abusive relationships. She added that people who experience challenges in relationships should seek help before it is too late.

The MEC's comments follows a horrific incident that occurred in Kwaggafontein last week wherein a man allegedly torched a house with a woman and a child inside. The woman was able to protect the child but she later succumbed to burn wounds. The incident apparently happened following a quarrel between the deceased and the suspect who is also the father of the child.

The MEC has applauded the community who responded when they were rallied to the scene. She has also lauded the police for bringing the suspect swiftly to book. The suspect, who also sustained burn injuries, has already appeared in Mkobola Magistrate Court and was remanded in custody pending a formal bail application on 28 August 2020.

“Women should not stay in abusive relationships; they should seek help before it is too late or end up paying with their lives or that of their loved ones. Communities should also speak when they witness abuse,” the MEC said.

She went on to highlight that while Government continues to put in place practical measures to fight the scourge of GBV, communities remain critical partners because everybody should play a role to ensure the protection of women and children.

“Government is working around the clock and that is why the Forensic Sciences Laboratory System has been enhanced to allow for progress on gender-based violence cases to be automatically reported weekly,” added the MEC.

She has also called on the police to always ensure that abuse cases are thoroughly investigated so that perpetrators are punished. She explained that with increased conviction rates, more communities will be inspired to work with the Government in the fight against abuse.

Shabalala has therefore called communities who experience or witness abuse to report to the police station so that those who are responsible are made to face consequences of their actions.

Ends...

**Issued by Mpumalanga Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison**



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