

Media Statement

South African Police Service

Office of the Provincial Commissioner: Limpopo

To all Media

Wednesday, 01 October 2025

66-YEAR-OLD SUSPECT APPEARS BEFORE MOREBENG MAGISTRATE'S COURT FOR RAPE OF 3-YEAR-OLD CHILD

POLOKWANE – MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Ms Violet Mathye, and Provincial Commissioner of Police in Limpopo, Lieutenant General Thembi Hadebe, have expressed their serious disappointment and outrage over the rape of a 3-year-old child in Springs village, Botlokwa policing area, Capricorn District.

A 66-year-old suspect, Selaelo Justice Mongalo appeared before the Morebeng Magistrate Court today, 01 October 2025, following his arrest by the Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit (FCS) in Polokwane on Monday, 29 September 2025.

The suspect has been remanded in custody until Wednesday, 08 October 2025, for formal bail application.

According to reports, on Friday, 25 September 2025, at approximately 18:30, the suspect, who works as a transport driver for a crèche, dropped off the child at her home. The guardian later noticed that the child appeared restless.

Subsequently, the victim began complaining of pains. The guardian immediately took her to a medical facility, where it was confirmed that the child had been raped.

Preliminary investigations reveal that the suspect, who is the husband of the crèche owner and responsible for transporting children, brought the child home late on the day in question. It was after this delayed drop-off that the child began exhibiting signs of distress and complaining of pain.

A case of rape was initially reported at Botlokwa SAPS and was subsequently transferred to the Polokwane Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit (FCS) for further investigation and handling.

Provincial Commissioner Lieutenant General Hadebe added: "I commend the Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit for their swift and professional response in apprehending the suspect. We will ensure a thorough investigation, the perpetrator is held accountable, and the victim is supported and protected at every step. Only through a relentless pursuit of justice can we begin to heal the scars of violence and ensure that no child ever faces such suffering again."

MEC Mathye emphasized the importance of vigilance: "We must ensure that those entrusted with the care and transportation of our children undergo thorough background checks and are continuously monitored. We condemn in the strongest possible terms this despicable act of violence against a defenceless child.

When violence is inflicted upon a child, it is not just an attack on the individual, it is an assault on the very fabric of our society."

The investigation is ongoing.

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