

MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Children's Safety Is Everyone's Responsibility: Department Calls for Increased Vigilance

The Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety is deeply concerned about the continued incidents of crimes committed against children and calls on all members of society to work together to protect children from abuse, exploitation, kidnapping, trafficking and all forms of violence.

The Department urges parents, guardians, educators, community leaders and every resident to remain vigilant and report any suspected abuse or suspicious behaviour involving children. Protecting children is a collective responsibility that requires the active participation of families, communities and law enforcement agencies.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to regularly speak to children about personal safety and empower them to protect themselves by teaching them to:

- Never allow anyone to undress or touch their private parts.
- Never accept gifts, sweets or anything else from strangers.
- Never follow an unknown person without the knowledge and supervision of a trusted adult.
- Never accept a lift from, or get into, an unknown vehicle, regardless of the reason.
- Immediately tell a trusted adult if anyone makes them feel uncomfortable, threatened or unsafe.
- Memorise important emergency contact numbers where possible.

The Department further encourages communities to remain alert and report any suspicious activities involving children without delay. Early reporting can save lives and help bring perpetrators to justice.

Members of the public can report crimes or suspicious activities through the following channels:

- South African Police Service (SAPS) Emergency: 10111
 - Crime Stop (Anonymous Tip-Offs): 08600 10111
 - Childline South Africa: 116 (toll-free from participating networks) or 08000 55 555
 - Visit the nearest police station to report any incident involving a child.
 - In an emergency, immediately alert local law enforcement or community policing structures.
- Every child deserves to grow up in a safe and caring environment. We call on parents, caregivers, communities and all stakeholders to remain vigilant, educate children about personal safety and

report any suspected abuse or criminal activity immediately. Together, we can prevent crimes against children and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.

The Department reiterates that crimes against children will not be tolerated and appeals to every resident of Limpopo to play an active role in safeguarding children. By working together, we can create safer communities where every child is protected, respected and free from fear.

If you see something, say something. Together, let us protect our children.

ISSUED BY:

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