



Media Statement

30 May 2017

Let us work together to protect children- MEC Ngomane

In an effort to reduce crimes against women and children, Mpumalanga Community Safety, Security and Liaison, MEC Pat Ngomane has called on all communities to not only observe the current Child Protection Week but to also become prime protectors of the most vulnerable people in the society. Ngomane was speaking today [Tuesday, 30 May 2017] as the country is commemorating the week that commenced on Sunday.

Ngomane urged all the community members particularly men to lead from the front with regard to protecting children during this week and beyond. He said: "You should not only protect your children but stand up and protect every child. Speak out when you see your neighbour abusing other children, it cannot only be talk, let all stand up and act.

It cannot only be a war that must be fought by the government, we all need to play our role in protecting the future of this country that is largely dependent on how we treat our children." He also stated that men who abuse women and children do not have a place in the society and they should be made to face the consequences of their evil deeds.

Ngomane further noted that women and children abusers are dangerous criminals who live in our communities and we know them, therefore they should be reported to the nearest police stations. MEC Ngomane also urged parents not ignore their children when they report perpetrators of abuse.

He has further pointed out that tell tale signs of abuse in most relationships are always there and therefore parents should act once they suspect that their children could be abused either by their own family members or in the community especially at school. He said parents should not ignore any signs of abuse but should once they notice them.

The MEC also urged members of the community to work together with Police, CPF and other security agencies in order to fight crime against women and children. Ngomane stated that failing to come together means we shall never be able to combat crime.

Meanwhile the department has various programmes that are aimed at enhancing awareness against women and children. It also has programmes such as school safety and the 365 Days on No Violence Against Women and Children that are implemented throughout the year.

National Child Protection Week is marked annually to raise awareness for the rights of children. It aims to mobilize all sectors of society to care for and protect children. Child Protection Week allows us to shine a spotlight on children's issues; highlight successes and identify what needs to be done

Ends...

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