

Media Statement

16 October 2013

MEC Maloyi calls on communities' involvement for thorough investigations on "hammer man"

North West MEC for Human Settlements Public Safety and Liaison, Nono Maloyi urged communities around Mahikeng to work join hands with the police in fighting crime within their respective areas. MEC Maloyi said this during the cleansing ceremony at the murder scene, where a 15 year old Sasa Manye of extension 39 in Mahikeng was murdered.

Manye was found dead by a passerby in the early morning of September 27, in an open space in Extension 39. She was allegedly raped and murdered by a man known as "hammer man" who's currently terrorizing the communities around Mahikeng.

According to investigations, the desist was hit several times on the head by an object. The brutal murder has left residents of Mahikeng in fear that their lives might be in danger because the perpetrator is still on the loose. Police reported that several cases of this magnitude are being investigated in Mahikeng and other areas like Itsoseng.

"As long as the perpetrator is still on the loose, we are going to have sleepless nights. We are going to leave no stone unturned to arrest this monster," said Maloyi.

Maloyi further emphasized that the police needs community's support and cooperation. "We must not just depend on the police but also come on board as communities and work with police. In that way we will be able to defeat this monster. But that does not mean that the communities should take the law into their own hands," pleaded Maloyi.

Provincial Commissioner Mbombo confirmed that the police are making every possible move to arrest the perpetrator. She said that police will continue patrolling areas identified as hotspot, however pleading with the communities to ensure their safety buy not walking alone at night to avoid being victims of the "hammer man". She said they have introduced more investigators on the case to add more manpower.

An interfaith ministry which involves pastors from different churches conducted a prayer session and traditional healers performed rituals as a sign of cleansing the side where the body was found.

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