### **Media Statement**

# Monday 23 June 2014

# MEC Molapisi appoints new police investigative officer on the Ganyesa case

Following dissatisfaction of Ganyesa community following the case of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, the North West MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management MEC Gaoage Molapisi has appointed the new investigative officer, through the



The fuming Ganyesa community members who came to the stadium listening to MEC Molapisi's response to their concerns.

office of the Provincial Police Commissioner to conduct a proper investigation.

Molapisi announced the decision during his engagement with hundreds of community members at the Ganyesa stadium.

The MEC said the decision was informed by the departmental preliminary investigation after the community registered their dissatisfaction on how the initial investigator has handled the case since it was registered at the Ganyesa police station.

"Your voices and concerned were registered and we conducted an internal investigation which informed our decision. We have trust that the newly appointed investigation officer will do justice on this case," said Molapisi who called on the community to work with the police and have faith on them.

Hundreds of fuming communities voiced their challenges and dissatisfactions with the Ganyesa police services as they allege that the suspect on this case might have bribed the police. The community claimed that this case was not the first and further requested that other previous cases must be re-opened and investigated.

Molapisi said the cases would be re-opened and urged the communities to assist the police with information to ease the investigations.

"We solemnly need your cooperation, we need those who have information on those cases to come forth and avail the important information for the police to conduct a proper investigation. We are here to assist and make sure that nothing of this nature happen again," said Molapisi.

The angry community members of Ganyesa further urged that the accused, Mr Ferdinant Monstert who is the owner of the Disipi filling station and super market must be expelled and close his businesses in the area.

In his response, Molapisi said the Kagisano Molopo Local Municipality and the local dikgosi will consult with the business owner (the accused) as according to the community requests.

Monstert was arrested on June 11, following the allegations of handcuffing and electrocuting a 9-year-old boy on Wednesday 28 May 2014. He appeared at the Ganyesa Magistrate Court and released on R1000 bail the same day.

Since the arrest of Monstert, members of the victim's family and Ganyesa communities claim that he continuously threaten and intimidate them and they have timeously reported such



acts to the police who did not take any action.

North West MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management Gaoage Molapisi urging communities of Ganyesa to have faith on the police and further to come forth with important information to ease the investigations. MEC Molapisi condemned the allegations of threats, intimidations and further urged the communities to calm down and not finding themselves against the law.

"No one should be denied security or live in fear of been attacked, nevertheless we must also avoid to find ourselves on the wrong side of the law as a result of responding with high emotions. We must have trust on our police and the justice system," concluded Molapisi.

Monstert will appear at the Ganyesa Magistrate court on the 7<sup>th</sup> July to face allegations of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

Meanwhile, stakeholder departments reported that the 9-year-old victim and the family have been going through the psyco-social counselling. The Department of Social Development reported to have been monitoring the counselling recovery of the family following the incident and further provided food parcels through its Social Relief of Distress programme, while the Department of Education assured that the 9-year-old victim whose a Grade 3 learner would be taken through the recovery plan for the 17 days of schooling he lost after the incidents.

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