



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**Communication Services and
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARREST THOSE WHO WANT GBV CASES TO BE WITHDRAWN - MEC KHOZA

KwaZulu-Natal Social Development MEC, Mrs Nonhlanhla Khoza, has called on police to take a tough stance against people who want to withdraw cases of gender-based violence (GBV) in the province.

MEC Khoza was reacting to the report given by the police in Uthukela District that some cases of GBV hit a snag because families of the victims often collude with perpetrators for the cases to be withdrawn.

Speaking outside Dukuza Magistrate Court after a three-kilometre peace walk against GBV, MEC Khoza said she noted with concern the attempts of withdrawal of cases by victims or survivors of crime in the area.

"The reports we received from the police are shocking. We heard that some of these cases are withdrawn before the suspects are even arrested. At times police say some of these cases are presented before the courts and others are withdrawn while they are already on court rolls. This is very concerning," she said.

MEC Khoza said it was disturbing to learn that the criminals were roaming the streets freely after raping women in the area of Bergville.

"The victims of crime must not let us down by withdrawing these serious cases after so much efforts we have put as government to fight cases of GBV," she said.

MEC Khoza, together with Ukhahlamba Local Municipality Mayor, Councillor Mlungisi Ndlangisa, Inkosi Menzi Hlongwane of Amangwaneni Traditional Authority and a handful of women led a peace walk against GBV, calling on all perpetrators involved to face arrest.

MEC Khoza said even people who were negotiating on behalf of perpetrators of crimes against women should face harsh punishment.

"We cannot tolerate criminals who want to solve criminal cases by committing crimes. When a person offers a cattle while rape was committed, such a case should face criminal charges for defeating the hands of justice," said MEC Khoza.

She added that in the area of Ukhahlamba a lot of crime also goes unreported.

Inkosi Hlongwane said he was shocked at some stage when a certain family approached him asking to assist to pay about R35 000 for a case to be withdrawn.

"We refused to get involved in such cases. As the traditional leadership at eMangwaneni, we are fighting all these cases of GBV and we want to see all communities working with us."

The eMangwaneni clan has been under siege as a number of rape cases have been reported over the past few weeks.

In some instances, the victims or survivors of crime are influenced by their relatives to withdraw cases. Although reasons for withdrawal differ from one case to another, it is clear that sometimes, there is exchange of cash wherein the victims or survivors of crime accept payments from the defendants.

MEC Khoza said police were putting a lot of efforts to assist in the fight against GBV, which include utilisation of various resources that are limited at times, to ensure that all reported cases were promptly investigated.

"Therefore, it is disappointing to learn that there are some attempts to withdraw cases. We want to see sentencing in all cases reported in Bergville."

MEC Khoza vowed that government would be following up on all cases of GBV reported in Bergville.

MEC Khoza also handed over a R1 million cheque to Zamukuzenzela Flagship Project aimed at empowering women to play a role in the local economy.

ISSUED BY THE KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT