



EFF STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF LUFUNO MAVHUNGA

Wednesday, 14 April 2021

The EFF notes with sadness the untimely passing of Lufuno Mavhunga who committed suicide after she was violently assaulted by a fellow pupil at Mbilwi Secondary School.

Lufuno was a victim of cyberbullying and subsequently was subjected to physical and verbal bullying at the school premises where she was humiliated and tortured for standing up for herself and her dignity. The embarrassment and shame caused this young lady, who had a bright future ahead of her, to take her own life. This is a testament to the severity of bullying in all its forms.

The increase in the usage of digital platforms has given young people direct access to the Internet from personal computers and mobile devices, and at most time's access to these technologies is unregulated. Sadly, this unregulated access to social media and the internet at a time when their social and emotional development is still fragile, leaves them vulnerable to peer pressure and bullying.

South Africa, being a nation where Gender Based Violence is prevalent and our children witness forms of violence in their homes, their communities and other public spaces, means that the exposure to violence, creates a dysfunctional mindset which manifests itself as a mental disorder and causes our children to believe that the only solution is violence.

Bullying is not a new phenomenon, and as a nation we have seen over the years how this act of violence has robbed many young people of their lives. Therefore, we call on the Department of Education, Department of Social Development and the South African Police Services to work together to create more awareness campaigns and

initiatives to curb the scourge of bullying in schools and to institute stricter punishment for pupils that are perpetrators. We call on society in general to collectively address, teach and condemn all forms of bullying.

In a world where the definition of beauty is distorted, Lufuno tried to explain that looks were not the only quality for beauty and she was vilified, slandered and assaulted. She will be remembered for her courage and intelligence.

May her soul rest in perfect peace.

ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

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