



EFF CONDEMNS THE VIOLENT GENDER BASED VIOLENCE ATTACK ON LINDIWE ZITHA

Wednesday, 07 June 2023

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) condemns the violent attack on Lindiwe Zitha, the sister of Banyana Banyana star Khabo Zitha by Eric Marakalala, in a case of gender based violence on Saturday the 3rd of June 2023 in Mamelodi.

While details are still emerging, it is reported that the attack occurred during loadshedding where Marakalala entered the premises of Zitha's family home, attacked Zitha in a locked room, poured fuel on her, and set her on fire.

She is currently on life support and faces a hard road to recovery, should she make it. The EFF is deeply saddened and outraged by this persistent and pervasive epidemic of gender-based violence (GBV) in South Africa and stands in solidarity with the Zitha family.

The accused, Marakalala is in police custody and made his first appearance in court on Monday 5th June, 2023. With a bail application appearance scheduled for the 12th June, we strongly recommend he be denied bail, in light of the increasing rates of GBV in this country.

While this occurrence is incredibly devastating, it is not surprising as recent crime statistics that show an increase in the attempted murder of women by over 20% in the last quarter. According to the SAPS, there were 1 485 attempted murders and 969 women killed between January and March 2023.

These levels of violence, abuse, and femicide in our country are alarming and demand our unwavering commitment to dismantling the structures that perpetuate this violence. We cannot remain silent while women, children, and marginalized communities bear the brunt of this brutality.

The EFF further reiterates its calls for the establishment of specialized courts and support services dedicated to handling cases of GBV. Survivors need access to justice that is swift, sensitive, and responsive to their needs. We must also ensure that law enforcement agencies are adequately trained and resourced to investigate and prosecute cases of GBV effectively.

We also urge the government to prioritize the implementation and enforcement of existing legislation aimed at protecting women, while also calling for harsher minimum sentences for perpetrators.

These policies and interventions exist and it is unfortunate that the ANC government continuously fails its citizens, particularly women and children, by a lack of implementation and more urgent response time.

This is why the EFF established the gender desk, where victims of GBV can call in to receive any assistance they may need, including legal and medical advice as well as counselling services.

If anyone needs assistance please call, sms, or WhatsApp 082 422 6894/087015 0375 or email genderdesk@effonline.com



ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS


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