



## **EFF MEDIA STATEMENT ON THE SERIAL CHILD RAPIST NTOKOZO ZIKHALI**

Friday, 11 August 2023

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) notes the life sentence handed down to Ntokozo Zikhali who kidnapped and raped a nine-year-old girl in 2021. However, the child rapist was also horrendously acquitted of charges of the murder and rape of four-year-old Bokgabo Poo, this week.

In the case of four-year old Bokgabo, the court determined that child rapist, Zikhali, had been coerced into confessing. Moreover, the judgement identified procedural flaws in the pointing-out process due to Zikhali's rights not being adequately communicated, and subsequently, ruled against the admissibility of specific evidence that had not been collected properly.

This is despite the presence of footage revealing the accused alongside the four-year-old victim, however, we are not surprised by this verdict. The prevailing and widely recognised ineptitude of the South African Police Service (SAPS) is an established reality.

The ongoing case of Senzo Meyiwa stands as a glaring testament to investigative incompetence by the SAPS. Furthermore, recent rape statistics reveal a concerning 3.22% rise, with fewer than 20% leading to trials and less than 8% resulting in successful convictions.

While the court rightly noted the incompetency of the SAPS, we need consequences for police when they fail their duty. Without action, cases get abandoned which erodes the willingness of women and children to step forward and report incidents, due to their reluctance to face secondary violence.

Amidst the surge of crimes against children, this failure to police and prosecute is state-sanctioned brutality. Under the ANC government, the state is unable to even shield its most vulnerable, highlighting its lack of credibility in handling any aspect of citizen welfare. This means our children will live with the ongoing threat of rape and murder as long as the ANC remains in power.

Moreover, it's worth highlighting that Zikhali was already out on bail for a child rape charge when four-year-old Bokgabo was raped and murdered. The EFF has consistently taken a stand against granting bail to those charged for rape and sexual assault, recognising the pattern of repeat offenses when they are granted bail.

The President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa shamelessly echoed this sentiment recently, confirming that he and his government lack the capacity to understand what their duties are. Ramaphosa's disdain for African children knows no limits — he trivialises the rape and murder of four-year-olds by merely paying lip service to 'what should be done,' rather than taking concrete action to ensure it is done.

However, a President who goes so far as torturing his domestic worker to veil his illicit crimes that channel unlawful foreign currency that he stashes in his mattresses, will persist in spearheading a regime of state-sanctioned brutality against women and children.

The EFF will aggressively push for a comprehensive reinvestigation and prioritisation of this case. Our deepest condolences go to the family of Bokgabo Poo. May she rest in peace from the wickedness of men like Ntokozo Zikhali and the state sponsored brutality of Cyril Ramaphosa.

**ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS**

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