



EFF CONDEMNS THE HORRIFIC ASSAULT OF A TWO-YEAR-OLD GIRL AND CALLS FOR URGENT ACTION

Monday, 26 August 2024

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) vehemently condemns the monstrous sexual assault of a two-year-old girl, Zanothando, also known as Zanothando, at Emma's Crèche in Sherwood, Durban. This brutal incident, where a child was left to suffer in unimaginable pain and distress, is a horrifying reflection of the deep rot in our society—a rot enabled by a police force complicit in the continuation of violence against women and children.

The details of this violence on a 2-year old are nothing short of appalling. On the day of the horror, Zanothando's mother found her daughter sitting alone and the child's behaviour was unusual—and her mother's worst fears were confirmed when, she discovered clear signs of the appalling abuse her daughter had endured. Desperate for help, the family rushed to Addington Hospital, only to be met with bureaucratic delays and incompetence. Instead of immediate medical attention, they were told to obtain a specific letter detailing the incident from the police.

Even after acquiring the letter, they faced further delays and were ultimately dismissed by a gynaecologist who, despite the visible evidence of trauma, claimed there were no "visible bruises." At the police station, Zanothando's mother was forced to recount the traumatic incident multiple times and the police, instead of showing compassion, demanded a statement from the two-year-old—a child who had just experienced unimaginable pain and fear.

The police, who should be the first line of defence, have once again proven themselves useless. Their handling of this case—from the ridiculous demand for a statement from a traumatised two-year-old to the family's degrading experience at the hospital—is beyond shameful.

This is not an isolated incident, but part of a systemic failure that prioritises bureaucracy over the safety and dignity of victims. The police are complicit in this violence by their negligence, allowing these crimes to go unpunished and leaving perpetrators free to continue their predatory behaviour.

The EFF has consistently called for the establishment of specialised courts, trained and sensitive to cases involving violence against women and children. These courts must be designed to deliver swift justice, without dragging victims and their families through the torturous process that only serves to re-victimise them. It is unacceptable that families seeking justice are led from pillar to post, forced to relive their trauma while the system that is supposed to protect them instead deepens their wounds.

Additionally, the EFF has long advocated for the opening of a National Registry for Sex Offenders, where the names and faces of those rapists who harm our children and women are made public. It is a disgrace that in a country plagued by rising violence against the most vulnerable, we still do not have this basic protection in place. Parents deserve to know who they are entrusting with their children's lives, and the state has failed them by keeping this information hidden.



We demand immediate action. The rapist must be arrested and held accountable. The crèche should be thoroughly investigated, and any other incidents of abuse must be brought to light. We will not stand by while our children are violated and their pain is met with indifference by those who are meant to protect them.

The EFF stands with Zanothando and her family in their pursuit of justice. We will continue to fight for a society where no child has to endure such horror, and where those who commit these heinous acts face the full wrath of the law. Our gender based violence (GBV) desk will provide support to the family. Further our Members of Parliament in the Police and Social Development portfolio committees will pursue the relevant departments to ensure that justice is served swiftly.

ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

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