

MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

MEDIA STATEMENT

Monday, 21 July 2015

Attention: News Editors

LEGISLATURE BRINGS HOPE TO 72 YEAR OLD GRANNY – MANDELA MONTH

As the Mandela month continues to bring hope for a better future to the neediest, the Speaker of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature Ms Thandi Shongwe has had to roll up her sleeves in an attempt to bring relief to granny Sarah Khulumile Malale and her grandchildren. The 72 years old elderly lost all her belongings including the house she inherited from her late husband. This happened when her grandson set the house alight. The boy who is now in police custody is alleged to have turned violent when he got home and there was no food for him. The 27 year old resolved to burn the house and attempted to kill the granny in the process.

Gogo Malale says she is now forced to go and seek refugee from neighbours at night and returns to her house in the morning to try and keep the yard, of her once beautiful house clean.

"I don't know what I must do, I don't work, I am old and have been dependent on my pension to support these kids" said Gogo Malale. "On the night of the incident, this boy came home and asked for food; I told him there was nothing cooked as we were out of food. I think this angered him and he started torching the house. He tried to keep me inside my burning house I don't even know as to how I escaped."

His grandson, who is not working, was arrested and is still in police custody.

Having been informed of this situation, the Speaker Ms Thandi Shongwe took it upon herself to seek donations and sponsors in order to fix the house.

"Especially because we are in the Mandela month, I saw it important that I prioritise this matter to help Gogo Malale. It is not acceptable that our kids treat senior citizens in this manner instead of protecting them especially Gogo because she is a woman, and she has dedicated her life to raising these kids."

Shongwe has already received commitment from some business people to fix the house, buy furniture and a startup grocery for the family.

Speaker Shongwe is expected to lead the entourage on Saturday 25 July 2015 when the house will be renovated.



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At the same time, the Speaker will on Sunday, the 26th of July 2015 unveil her annual Speaker's Cup. This year it is aimed at bringing unity in the Taxi Industry, hence the soccer tournament will be amongst taxi associations operating in Malelane and Lebombo.

The attendance by the media representatives for subsequent coverage on both days will be highly appreciated.

Please confirm your attendance with Thulile Nkambule@ 013 766 1218 or 083 656 2762.

End,

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