06 June 2022

**ALL MEDIA HOUSES**

**OFFICIAL COMMENT ON THE DOUBLE MURDER CASE – SIYATHEMBA BALFOUR**

The municipality deeply condemns the recent brutal killing of a young woman and her child in Joe Slovo Section, Siyathemba in Balfour. This cruel act is an indication of the unwavering attack on women and children in our country, perpetrated by the very same intended protectors in our society.

Cases of violence against children and gender-based violence issues have been called the country’s second pandemic which reportedly worsened during and the COVID-19 hard lockdown. The President, therefore declared Gender Based Violence and Femicide as a national crisis as the country is faced with a dual pandemic.

This incident occurs at the end of the Child Protection Week Campaign which ran from the 29th May to the 5th June 2022 under the theme “*Let us Protect Children during COVID-19 and Beyond*”.

We welcome and greatly appreciate the swift response by law-enforcement officers in arresting the suspect in connection with the death of the twenty four year old woman and her two year old daughter in Siyathemba. We call on the harshest sentence to be granted to the culprit for this intolerable deed.

These senseless murders are a reminder that we must do more as a society to end violence and gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF). We further urge all people in the country to work with the government in the fight against crime and GBVF.

Together we can ensure that our communities and streets are safer for all people, including the elderly, women and children.

-Ends –

**CLLR. KHETHIWE MOEKETSI**

**EXECUTIVE MAYOR**

**Tel: 017 004 0027**

**Facebook: Dipaleseng Local Municipality**

 **Website: www.dipaleseng.gov.za**