



The Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities.

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TO EDITORS/REPORTERS

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MEDIA STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE CRL RIGHTS COMMISSION CONDEMNING THE HEARTLESS ACT OF KENEILWE SHALABA AND SEBOKOANA KHOUNYANA

The CRL Rights Commission unequivocally condemns the horrific circumstances surrounding the death of the late Kutlwano Shalaba. We were deeply shocked to learn of the alleged involvement of the child's mother in the heinous act of orchestrating the murder and trafficking of her own son. The reported horrifying act of poisoning an innocent child for financial gain not only betrays the sacred responsibilities of parenthood but also represents a grave violation of human rights.

This case represents one of the most disturbing violations of trust and human dignity when we are supposed to celebrate Child Protection Week, a time dedicated to raising awareness about the safety, care, and rights of South Africa's children.

The Commission welcomes the work of the police, which resulted in a sangoma, Sebokoana Khounyana, appearing at the Vanderbijlpark Magistrates' Court on alleged charges of premeditated murder and Human trafficking of the late baby Kutlwano. Furthermore, the Commission welcomes the charge of premeditated murder against the mother, Kuneuwe Portia Shalaba, who was previously facing charges of human trafficking, conspiracy to commit robbery and making a false statement to the police.

The Commission pleads with the court to ensure that, as the two re-appear in court today, every effort will be made to ensure that justice is served and that they face the fullest consequences for their reprehensible actions.

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