



**MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY: WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES**

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SPEAKING NOTES FOR THE MINISTER IN THE
PRESIDENCY FOR WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES, MAITE NKOANA- MASHABANE

WEBINAR IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CATHOLIC BUSINESS
FORUM ON GENERATION EQUALITY: BREAKING THE
SHACKLE OF TRADITIONS FOR WOMEN'S
ECONOMIC FREEDOM

Check against delivery...

The CEO of Catholic Business Forum: Ms Mahadi Buthelezi

The Deputy Chairperson of the National House of Traditional Leaders: Inkosikazi Nomandla Mhlauli

The Chairperson of the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural and Linguistic Communities: Professor Luka Mososa

The Chairperson of the Moral Regeneration Movement: Father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa

Catholic Parliamentary Liaison Officer: Ms Lois Law

Commissioners present

Traditional leadership present

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning,

It is with great pleasure that we are co-hosting this important dialogue for heritage month that talks about breaking the shackles of traditions for women's economic freedom in order for us to reach generation equality.

These shackles that we must break cannot be postpone anymore as we have nine years before 2030 and because of the

tight deadlines, we need different strategies that will ensure that we reach the 50-50 by 2030

As we speak of generation equality today, we are aware that there is no single country in the world that has reached gender equality and the Global Gender Gap Report of 2020 by World Economic Forum projects that the overall gender gap will close in 100 years. We do not have hundred years, we want to see change now.

This is despite the global community including us having signed different Instruments and Conventions like the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women 31 years ago, the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and its Platform for action 25 years ago and the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 with targets that must be achieved by 2030 to reach planet 50-50 by 2030.

As a country having a Constitution that guarantees our rights and equality however, women and girls in this country still face the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

Therefore, the questions we are asking in these webinar seek to assist us in delivering on our mandate.

The mandate of the Department of women, youth and persons with disabilities is to ensure that issues that talks to these sectors are mainstreamed in all programs and projects of government including the Private Sector.

We are also given the mandate to monitor the implementation of policies and legislations that seeks to redress the imbalances of the past in order for everyone to enjoy the rights enshrined in the Constitution.

We also have a mandate to lobby for equal access for women in their diversity; young, old, with disabilities, lesbians and gender non-conforming.

Therefore, we are holding these webinars under generation equality to understand traditions and institutions that are sticky floors for women and kept them still stuck 26years after we have attained our freedom. In order to develop strategies that will break these shackles and put money in women's hands.

We are talking about generation equality, the UNwomen campaign that we have applied to be part of as a country, to be a member of the Action Coalition addressing gender based violence and Economic Justice and Rights.

After a long process, the UNWOMEN gave South Africa the responsibility to co-lead the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights together with Mexico, Spain, Germany and Sweden and to be a member of the Action Coalition on Gender Based Violence that is led by Kenya.

What is of critical importance for us is that as a country, we cannot talk about generation equality and not talk of child marriages and teenage pregnancies? These are traditions that robs girl children of their right to be children and from education that will open doors for them in future.

We cannot talk of generation equality when women bear the burden of raising children alone while their fathers are around

and making more children that they have no intention of looking after.

We cannot talk of generation equality where women do not have access to land and means of production

We cannot talk of generation equality when women are still denied the right to own land. We cannot talk of generation equality where women are still workers and do not own the means of production

We cannot talk about generation equality when women are still excluded from occupying leadership positions in some churches, Mosques and to be queens in their own right.

We cannot talk of generation equality when women and girls in their diversity are being abused and killed in what we have termed the second pandemic in this country.

Therefore, this dialogue must assist us to understand the traditions and practices that have made it impossible for women and girls to break the shackled.

And also to form partnerships in implementing the National Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide that takes place behind closed doors in our homes, communities, churches, schools and workplaces and as custodians of traditions.

In addition, practices assist in participating in Pillar 2 that talks Prevention and Restoration of Social Fabric as some of the perpetrators use tradition, customs and culture as a reason for their barbaric behaviour. And Pillar 5 that talks to Economic Empowerment.

Therefore, preventing gender based violence and femicide before it happens is critical because we will save lives and improve the quality of lives of women and children.

Further, we need to repair the social fabric of our nation because it cannot be correct to be known for the violence against women and children and perpetrators are also becoming younger and younger and points to broken family and communities structures.

And we need everyone to come on board address this in order to eradicate gender based violence in our lifetime.

I thank you!!