



MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY: WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

REMARKS BY MME MAITE NKOANA-MASHABANE,
DURING WEBINAR ON COMMITMENT TO 365 DAYS OF
ACTION AGAINST GBVF AND LAUNCH OF GENERATION
EQUALITY FORUM
10 DECEMBER 2020

Programme Director, Ms Mmabatho Ramagoshi

Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms Thandi Modise

Hon. Deputy Chairperson of the national Council of Provinces,
Ms Sylvia Lucas

Hon. Chief Whip of the ANC, Ms Pemmy Majodina

Hon. Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth
and Persons with Disabilities, Ms Nhlanhla Ndaba

Hon. Ministers

Your Excellency, Ms Anne Githuku-Shongwe, Representative of
UN Women's South Africa Multi-Country Office

Representatives of Civil Society, Faith-Based Organisations and
Private Sector

Representatives of our provinces

Director-General of the Department, Adv. Mikateko Maluleka

Panellists and participants

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you participating in
this webinar and dialogue on an important subject.

As we mark the conclusion of the United Nations led 16 Days of
Activism Campaign for No Violence Against Women and
Children, I do so with a heavy heart as I am still traumatized by
visions of five children among them a five month old and their
mother being butchered with an axe like wild animals by their
father.

Sadly, this is not isolated case, there are many cases of Gender-
Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) that continued to happen
daily during 16 days Campaign.

We are exhausted of crying and marching as these have not

stopped the slaughtering of women and children in this country.
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

Unless drastic steps are taken in this country to show perpetrators that they will NOT get away anymore with their barbaric actions and will face the full MIGHT of the law.

Today as we commemorate International Human Rights day, we must also think of the rights of the victims of gender based violence and Femicide.

The victims that cannot speak for themselves today because they have been permanently silenced by men who are now roaming the streets because they managed to beat the system or are enjoying themselves in our prisons

As we recommit ourselves as a nation to implement the six pillars of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on GBVF and to stop any form of violence against women by men taking place in our presence, we must interrogate those things in our system that seems to make these people to act with impunity in a Constitutional Democracy like ours.

On a daily basis I ask myself what is it in our systems that makes these perpetrators not to heed the call to STOP the carnage

against women and children.

Program Director,

I am daily inundated with emails and whatsapp messages from victims and families who lost their loved ones on how they are daily brutalised, traumatised and marginalised by the institutions that are supposed to give them protection and justice.

Some of these stories just shows how these men have no respect of the law and the pain of those that they have brutalised.

Therefore, to ensure that we close all the gaps in order for us to eradicate gender based violence in this decade, we must attack and remove everything that seems to sustain this barbarism and for perpetrators to know that *Zijikile izinto e Mzansi*.

We now have the NSP on GBVF that implores every South African to get involved in eradicating gender based violence and femicide.

However, if there are loopholes in our laws and perpetrators openly commit these atrocities even inside a police station when woman was shot dead by a husband when she went to open a case of domestic violence against him.

It is time to stand up and push back and stop repeating the narrative that says South Africa has the highest femicide cases for a country that is not at war. There is war declared by men on women and children in this country and it is time that we use all the ammunition we have to STOP it.

As part of commemorating International Human Rights Day, we have organised a dialogue today with the legal fraternity with the Victims Rights are Human Rights TOO.

The objective of this dialogue is to interrogate this and we have also extended the invitation to the Legislature to participate so that at the end we can have a report that will be presented to Parliament.

This will assist to start a dialogue on this and a process to change all discriminatory laws including the Constitution if it needs be in order to stop the Genocide against women and children.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

After the dialogue, we will then Launch the Generation Equality Forum.

The GEF will be a vehicle to be used at community level together with all structures that seeks to eradicate gender based violence

and create a safe and equal society for all.

This Forum will be incorporated with the Community structures as outlined in the NSP to implement bold and innovative programs and strategies that must change the trajectory to address gender inequalities, economic inequalities and GBVF by 2030.

This is a global campaign led by UNWOMEN and South Africa is one of the Co-leaders of the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights.

We cannot talk of economic justice when the majority of the citizens which are women, youth and persons with disability are denied access to economic opportunities.

Presently, different committees are busy with the development of the blueprints for each Action Coalition and once finalised, the GEF which is a multi-stakeholder Forum will start with incorporating the programs at Municipal and District level to ensure that we do not leave anyone behind as we strive to the planet 50-50 by 2030.

Ke a leboga

