

**ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY FOR  
WOMEN YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
DURING THE 2019 LAUNCH OF THE 16 DAYS OF  
ACTIVISM AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN ABUSE**

**LEPHALALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO**

**25 NOVEMBER 2019**

Programme director: Deputy Minister in the Presidency  
responsible for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities,  
Prof Hlengiwe Mkhize

The President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency  
Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa

All Ministers present here today

Premier of the Limpopo Province, Mr SC Mathabatha

Kgosi Sefunelo ka Seleka

The Mayor of Lephalale Municipality, Cllr Jack Maeko

Members of the media

Ladies and gentleman

It is with great pleasure to be with you this morning as we mark the International Day to end Gender Based Violence against Women and Children.

It is also great to see amongst others, government, civil society organisations and business sector gathered here this morning, we believe that through the collective efforts working together, we can broaden the impact of the campaign

The year 2019 marks the 21st Anniversary of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children Campaign in South Africa. While the internationally-determined time frame of the annual campaign is 16 days until International Human Rights Day (10 December), the time frame of 365 days was chosen by the South African government to ensure a programmatic approach to the management of violence against women and children.

The 16 Days of Activism campaign 2019 is hosted under the theme: *“enough is enough-365 days to end gender based violence and femicide (GBV)”*

Programme Director, we have been reeling from the news of some of the most brutal and horrific acts of violence and rape that were recently committed by some of the perpetrators of

these heinous crimes against women and children as reported on various media platforms.

The theme captures the mood of South Africa over the past year where increasingly violent and callous cases of GBVF have pushed South Africans to the Limit, Screaming enough is enough!

365 days reference refers to the country's commitment to a year round campaign to eradicate GBVF through constant campaign activism to end gender based violence and femicide.

Patriarchal violence continues to drive the systematic abuse and oppression of women as result of male supremacy, societal norms, cultural beliefs and value systems. Women's rights are being violated on a daily basis in the country. Women are subjected to patriarchal practices in all its forms and manifestations. Sex stereotyping and the gendered nature of women's roles, responsibilities and work continues to impede their full enjoyment of their freedom and rights and is a barrier to their full emancipation.

The 16 Days of Activism Campaign objective is to promote the multi-sectoral approach for mobilisation of a collective responsibility in the fight to eradicate violence against women and children around shared development goals and faster transformation.

The 16 Days campaign further aims to advocate for accountability and respond to identified challenges, gaps and collectively develop interventions and programmes to address the challenges in working towards a united approach in prevention, response, support and care for women and children. In addition the campaign seeks to raise awareness about Violence against Women and Children and encourage society, men in particular and communities to work together towards a violence free country.

During 16 Days of Activism our focus is on violence against women and children, and how South Africa can end this scourge through collective efforts, collaboration and advocacy

Ladies and gentlemen, we are here today not only to raise awareness about the negative impact violence has on women and children, but to respond to the outcry and give a progress report on the immediate action government has undertaken in the strive to end Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF).

A Presidential Summit on Gender Based Violence and Femicide was held in November 2018 in an effort to more systematically respond to the high levels of GBVF. The President signed a Declaration committing to several recommendations to address the scourge of violence against women and gender based violence.

The country also embarked on the development of a National Strategic Plan to end violence against women and towards establishing a multi-sectoral National Council on Gender Based Violence.

The Emergency Action Plan to deal with the scourge of gender based violence that that was announced by the President at a special joint sitting of Parliament in October is being implemented

We are therefore dedicating this important occasion on the calendar of our country to end of violence and abuse against women and children. It is a time to encourage our people to engage in practical programmes and take active steps to fight the scourge of violence against women and children.

I thank you!

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