



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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## MEDIA STATEMENT

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Issued by Ministry of Women, Youth & Persons with Disabilities

Attention: Producers and News Editors

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### **MINISTER MAITE NKOANA MASHABANE LAUNCHES WOMEN'S MONTH UNDER THE THEME: "GENERATION EQUALITY: REALISING WOMEN'S RIGHTS FOR AN EQUAL FUTURE"**

The Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities Maite Nkoana-Mashabane hosted a media briefing yesterday (30 July 2020) to launch Women's Month 2020. The launch provided the opportunity to guide the national conversation and programmes aimed at ending inequality and women's empowerment initiatives.

The theme for Women's Month 2020 links to a global campaign to achieve gender equality by the year 2030.

The Department continues to focus on inter-sectionality because women, youth and persons with disabilities continue to face multiple forms of deprivation in society.

Women's Month 2020 takes place in the context of the dual pandemics of COVID-19 and gender-based violence and femicide, which have underlined the urgent need to more decisively deal with the legacy of apartheid and structural oppression to accelerate the transformation of society.

The Minister said under the banner of Generation Equality, the focus will be on mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on women; women's access to economic justice and rights; and the eradication of gender-based violence and femicide.

The month also brings into focus efforts towards ending gender discrimination and gender-based violence and femicide – and advance the rights of women and girls in the political, economic, social

and cultural spheres. The month will also be utilised as an opportunity to mobilise women and strengthen their organised formations towards the development of sustainable action coalitions – and a continuation of the development of the national consensus around gender policy priorities and programmes to advance the gender agenda by 2030.

The Minister of Police, Bheki Cele called upon officers to be empathetic to women and treat them with dignity, professionalism and respect. “I want to repeat that the job of Police Officers is to effect arrests and work with the prosecution to ensure that those who rape, kill and abuse women are given harsh sentences and life imprisonment,” said Minister Cele.

Minister Nkoana Mashabane announced that because of the Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdown in effect, the National Women's Day event will be held virtually on 9 August – with various stakeholders, stalwarts of the liberation and President Cyril Ramaphosa taking part.

The Minister was joined by Minister of Police Bheki Cele and Deputy Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture Ncawu Mafu, as well as Deputy Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities Professor Hlengiwe Mkhize.

### **Call to action to the Nation:**

The Minister called upon change makers of all ages and genders to tackle the unfinished business of empowering women through a multi-generational campaign, under the slogan: “Be a part of the generation that ends gender inequality” and to use the hashtag #IAmGenerationEquality.

The ultimate goal of this campaign is to dismantle patriarchy in all its forms as an underlying cause of many of the injustices women face on a daily basis.

The Minister said: “We want to join hands across spheres of government and with all sectors of society as part of a Decade of Action towards gender equality.”

“We also want to see sustainable programmes that are geared towards achieving this goal. Together with civil society, we are establishing action coalitions which will work to drive visible change for women in our country,” said Minister Nkoana-Mashabane.

## **MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

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## **ENDS**

Know and Share these contact details:

GBV Command Centre: 0800 428 428 / \*120\*7867# from any cell phone

Persons with disabilities, SMS 'help' to 31531

Women Abuse Helpline: 0800 150 150

Child line: 0800 055 555

SAPS Crime Stop: 0860 10111

GBVF-related service complaints (SAPS): 0800 333 177/

[complaintsnodalpoint@saps.gov.za](mailto:complaintsnodalpoint@saps.gov.za)

National AIDS Helpline: 0800 012 322

National Human Trafficking Helpline: 0800 222 777

Suicide Helpline: 0800 567 567

National Department of Health: <https://www.health.gov.za>

National Institute of Communicable Diseases: <https://www.nicd.ac.za>

World Health Organisation: <https://www.who.int>

Coronavirus Hotline: 0800 029 999

Twitter: @DWYPD\_ZA

Instagram: @dwypdza

Facebook: @dwypdza

Website: [www.women.gov.za](http://www.women.gov.za)