



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

Pretoria: 16 June 2020

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### **INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE CALLS AN URGENT MEETING IN RESPONSE TO THE ENDLESS SLAUGHTER OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND WELCOMES SPEEDY ARREST OF ALLEGED PERPETRATORS**

The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Gender-Based Violence held an emergency meeting on Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 in response to the recent spate of femicides taking place across South Africa. The meeting was led by the Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities Maite Nkoana-Mashabane to respond to the endless slaughter of women and children, most often at the hands of those they love and trust.

As South Africa reels in shock from a spate of heinous murders of women over the past week, on Monday morning South Africans had to come to terms with the discovery of a mutilated body of a woman from Eersterust, Pretoria allegedly stabbed to death by her partner, on Saturday, 13 June 2020.

“The constant killing of women and children is too much for us to bear. We are disgusted, ashamed, and are forced to question the very humanity of men who think that the bodies of women are sites for violence and control. Gender-based violence in all its forms must be denounced, not just by government, but by communities within which these perpetrators reside,” said Minister Nkoana-Mashabane.

The IMC also called for anger against the killings of women to be channelled towards ending GBVF and ensuring safer communities for women and children.

In addition to women being murdered, women and children continue to be abused and exploited on a daily basis. All forms of abuse including cyber-bullying, technology assisted sexual abuse, and emotional abuse are meted out by men daily, with many of these crimes going unreported and unpunished. It was proposed that intervention programmes targeting schools be put in place to address violence at a young age.

“As a country, we are in a deep crisis. We were in this crisis before COVID-19 and even while under lockdown, women were being murdered in their homes by their partners, by boyfriends, by husbands, and by ex-lovers. However, government cannot be in every home across the country. Families and communities must rally together to report all forms of violence before it’s too late. Media’s attention on GBVF once again brought into stark reality the ugly truth that women and children are being murdered with impunity every single day,” added Minister Nkoana-Mashabane.

The IMC acknowledged that GBVF is a societal problem and that neither government nor civil society alone could effectively respond to GBVF. The eradication of GBVF required society and government to rally together to ensure that perpetrators are brought to book

“We face a serious problem in South Africa of the silencing of violence,” added Minister Nkoana-Mashabane. The IMC noted with grave concern the withdrawal of charges against perpetrators, and the silence of family members who witness these crimes and fail to report them. The IMC called for families and communities to rally together to work with government by reporting incidents of gender-based violence and shunning any act of abuse, no matter how small.

The IMC wished to acknowledge the good work of SAPS in acting with speed to arrest wanted suspects in the reported cases of GBVF. These swift actions provide some comfort to families and loved ones who must deal with the brutal reality of losing a loved one in such a violent manner. However, prevention remains key in ending the relentless war being waged on women.

The IMC once again reiterated the role of communities in ending gender-based violence. Further emphasis should be placed on Local Intervention including through the district development model. Social workers, community workers and volunteers will be used as part of efforts to combat GBVF at local level.

The IMC stated that we need communities to help us curb this epidemic. Communities can play a big role in curbing this epidemic by reporting incidents of abuse to local organisations, and South

African Police Service (SAPS). Communities must come together against GBVF and expose perpetrators and not turn a blind eye to abuse.

The IMC encouraged communities to work with the police and report any tip-offs they may have to the Crime Stop Hotline on 08600 10111 or send an anonymous SMS to Crime Line at 32211, or to call the Gender-Based Violence Command Centre at 0800 428 428.

Government continues to work with society in the implementation of the National Strategic Plan on GBVF. The National Strategic Plan is government and civil society's multi-sectoral strategic framework to realise a South Africa free from gender-based violence and femicide. The IMC is working towards the establishment of the National Council on GBVF.

The IMC is constituted by the Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, who is the convenor, together with the Ministers of Police; Finance; Justice and Correctional Services; Social Development; Public Service and Administration. It was established by Cabinet to undertake work relating to the institutional arrangements and coordination to ensure the effective implementation of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), 2020-2030.

## **ENDS**

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### **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

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