

THE NDP SETS OUT A VISION FOR SOUTH AFRICA FOR 2030.
IT AIMS TO ELIMINATE POVERTY, AND REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT
AND INEQUALITY BY 2030



social development

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Social Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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THE BULLETIN

Official external publication of the Department of Social Development - Third Quarter Edition **2022**

WE SURVIVED GBV



**CHILD SUPPORT
GRANT TOP UP**

**UNQUALIFIED AUDIT
OPINION**

END GBV

PROTECT CHILDREN

FINANCIAL BOOST TO SMMEs

CONTENTS

Editorial note	Pg 2
From MEC's Desk	Pg 3
GBV Survivors	Pg 4
Financial Boost	Pg 5
Skills Development	Pg 6
Child support grant top-up	Pg 7
NW-FS exchange programme	Pg 8
Know drugs	Pg 9
Kgwebo ka batho	Pg 10
Men fight GBV	Pg 11
Open dialogue on GBV	Pg 12
Child protection	Pg 13
Unqualified audit opinion	Pg 14
End GBV	Pg 15

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Welcome to the third edition of our external newsletter, The Bulletin. This publication is presented to you against the backdrop of horrendous acts of violence that have been perpetuated against women and children in our country. According to the crime statistics recorded by the South Africa Police Service, from April to June this year, eight hundred and fifty-five (855) women and two hundred and forty-three (243) children were killed in South Africa. Over 11 000 assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm cases, with female victims, were opened with the police.

These shocking statistics clearly show that gender based violence has become a real pandemic. So we are duty bound to play a role in protecting women and children at all costs.

Over the years, our society has gradually adopted a 'mind-your-business' attitude which makes some people to turn a blind eye to the cries of help from the most vulnerable groups - women, children and people with disabilities.

In most instances when a woman or a child is being abused, some community members move quickly to record the gruesome incidents of violence with the cellphones and make them viral on social media.

I have seen many of these videos from bystanders who happen to witness acts of violence in the communities and decided to keep quiet. Some would say 'I don't want my neighbour to hate me for reporting him to the authorities.'

The norm 'I am my brother's keeper' has faded away leaving us with no conscience to care of others. Is this a sign of a broken moral fibre in our society? Do we still love each other, particularly women and children? Are we no longer regarding women and children as human beings?

Wherever you are reading this piece from, if your answer is no, why then do we have a spike in gender based violence cases? According to the recent crime statistics, cases of rape have increased in the North West and Northern Cape provinces respectively.

On the flip side of the coin, victims of gender based violence tend to defend the perpetrators who happen to be breadwinners in their families. As a result of unemployment and many other insecurities, some women are forced to remain in abusive relationships and bear the brunt of abuse until they give their last breath.

The blessing and blessed phenomenon has also exacerbated gender based violence and became a trending reality, revealing how older men attracted young girls with large sums of money, expensive clothes, gifts and trips and make them return the favour by having unprotected sex with them.

In some families blessers do entice parents by buying them groceries or giving them money to have access to their young girls. This must stop and it stops now. Let us stand together as a nation to protect women and children.

Petrus Siko
Editors-in-Chief



CALL TO END GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE

Every year on the 25 November we observe 16 Days of Activism Campaign on No violence against Women and Children. This annual campaign forms the centre point of government's comprehensive 365 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children.

Given the scourge of gender-based violence in our province and the country at large, which is declared a national priority, government is implementing the Emergency Response Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, which was announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa in September 2019.

Violence against women and children is a violation of human rights, regardless of the position of whoever does it in our society. It can't be right that violence that is perpetuated against women and children has become their second skin when we have a good Constitution that protects the rights of all people in this country.

The onus is upon all of us to demonstrate our concern on the scourge of abuse and be exemplary in our communities through our deeds and speeches.

It is clear that we must do more as a society in combating gender based violence. We must get everyone in society to say, enough is enough! This must go hand in hand with behavioural change.

As a society we must mentor and teach young boys to always value and respect young girl children and women. We also need more men to stand up and make a difference. The voices and actions of men are crucial in the fight against violence and abuse.

Changing behaviour and ingrained attitudes will not be easy, but men must take the lead in this drive. It is time for men to join the fight, and become the vanguard of our common struggle to end violence and abuse. It begins with responsible father figures instilling the values of human dignity, equality and respect in young men and boys.

Ultimately men can ensure that we put an end to abuse, assault, rape and domestic violence against women and children.

We call on every man to continue to instil humanitarian values on boys the same way women are instilling values on girls if we are to create a society free of violence.

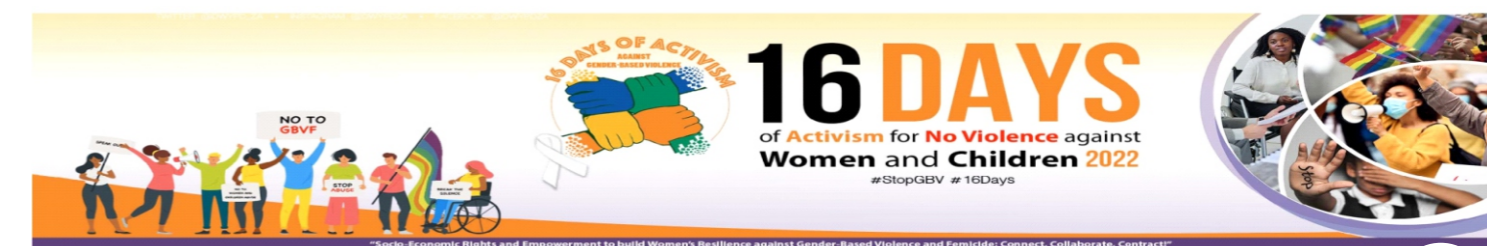
We make a special appeal to men who abuse women to seek professional help in order to deal with their anger. We call on victims of gender based violence to speak up so that we eradicate all forms of abuse that take place in homes, at the workplace and any other places.

We call on North West communities to action.

- Reject and report abusers
- Act and don't look away!
- Do not protect abusers, report them!
- Do not engage in abusive activities and become an abuser
- Stop abuse.
- Be sensitive and supportive to GBV victims - share helpful information and support causes near you.
- Seek personal help to change harmful behaviors such as alcohol and substance abuse
- Protect children from exposure to violence and harmful content on internet and social media, including pornography and sexual solicitation
- Organize targeted community outreach and dialogues on solution towards a gender equal society.
- If you are an abuser, seek professional help. It is never too late.

Please use the following contact numbers for assistance:

Childline North West : (018) 297 4411
National Crisis Childline : 08 000 55 555
Gender-based Violence Command Centre Toll free Number : 0800 428 428
Or Send a Please Call Me to *120*7867#.



DEPARTMENT OBTAINS UNQUALIFIED AUDIT OPINION

North West Department of Social Development has obtained an unqualified audit opinion on the Annual Financial statements and material misstatements corrected on the usefulness and reliability of reported performance information on selected programme 3 - Children and Families according to the Auditor General's findings, MEC Boitumelo Moilola said.

“Our department was one of the departments which were audited during the financial year that ended 31 March 2022. We are so humbled by this achievement and we intend to keep up the good work going forward, Moilola said, adding that her department has also been earmarked for a clean audit by the North West Provincial Treasury.

Moilola said, despite the achievement, her department is still required by the Auditor General to improve on reporting of performance information, compliance on supply chain management and deal with irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure to achieve a clean audit report. The material findings on compliance with expenditure, consequence procurement and contract management were further emphasized by the Auditor General as a concern wherein an improvement plan will be developed to address these issues.

Moilola expressed her profound thanks to the senior management and staff in the department and encouraged them to sustain the good performance.

“While we are obliged to render services to our communities we are equally required to do so in accordance with the relevant legislations such as Public Finance Management Act and other departmental policies. We must also ensure that the department practices good governance and observe our internal controls to get a clean audit,” she said.

The Department of Social Development together with Economic Development, Environment Conservation and Tourism and Arts Culture Sports and Recreation and North West Provincial Legislature have been identified as departments that have a potential to achieve clean audit in the next audit cycle.

Below: Provident House building which accommodates social development staff in the capital city of Mahikeng



FROM MEC'S DESK



The campaign continues to generate a heightened level of awareness among South Africans on the effect and impact of gender-based violence and femicide in societies.

Many women died at the hands of men. These women became victims of gender-based violence. It therefore implies that for as long as we have such cases, the relevance of the campaign will not cease to exist. It begs the question, why do men kill women and children - a defenceless and vulnerable group. Is it because of the power dynamics between different genders? Is it uncontrolled rage? What is it? I guess men, particularly perpetrators of these deeds, are better placed to explain themselves properly. What is clear is that no society must allow its women, girls, and children, to be victims of gender-based violence.

We must take concrete actions to create safe spaces for women and children. We must refuse to turn a blind eye to the cries of the vulnerable. We also cannot normalise the harassment of women. The culture of silence must stop. There is a need to do what we can to promote the rights of women and children. Ending gender-based violence is the responsibility of all of us. One way of stopping gender-based violence, is to empower women. I am aware that government programmes which have over years been designed to address this issue. But clearly this is not enough.

I am pleased to meet you once again over this medium of communication - The Bulletin external newsletter which is produced on a quarterly basis, packed with vital information to enlighten you on our programmes and services. I believe that the information that we share with you will empower and change your lives for the better.

We have marked one of the most important programmes of a democratic South African government - Sixteen Days of Activism on No Violence against Women and Children. This programme has been implemented by government since 1988. It is such an important campaign to an extent that the United Nations thought it was necessary to endorse it.

The initiative runs every year from 25 November, which is the International Day of No Violence against Women, to the 10 December, commemorated as International Human Rights Day. As you may know, the purpose of the campaign, is to raise awareness on gender-based violence in our communities.

We need all stakeholders including religious sector, business, and civil society to accelerate these programmes, as express by the 2022 campaign theme, “Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment to build Women’s Resilience against Gender-based Violence and Femicide: Connect, Collaborate, Contract!”

Another area that we need to increase our focus on, is the efficiency of the criminal justice system in respect of how it deals with perpetrators of gender-based violence. It is worth noting that in this regard, government had recently introduced three pieces of legislation, which will enhance the operation of the justice system by giving more legislated powers to the courts to deal with gender-based violence.

Our attitude towards GBV, correctly described by President Cyril Ramaphosa as another pandemic, must be that those who hurt the most vulnerable in society, should have no place to hide.

Let us all join hands in the fight against gender based violence.

On the Cover: Skeem Saam actress Lydia Mokgokoloshi, MEC Boitumelo Moilola and Solly Moholo dancing at a fun day event for older persons at Cyferskuil village in Moretele

WE ARE THE SURVIVORS

By Obusitswe T. Keboneilwe and Marumo Mogapi

From the harrowing statistics of victims of gender-based violence (GBV), there are many women who live to tell the tale. A tale that depicts women who are: - Broken. Defeated. Paranoid. Scared. Pessimistic and Dependent. Others have lost hope.

GBV is happening all around us all the time, and it is especially directed against women and young girls. And yet, the tragedy is that the majority of attacks, assaults and violence occur in secret, behind closed doors.

We have heard of women and children being beaten, raped, demoralised, and often killed at the hands of men, the same men that are supposed to love and protect them.

It is from this sad picture that government has called for all civil society to join hands in at least providing hope while continuing the fight against the ever growing abuse suffered at the hands of loved ones.

The dependency chain to attain shelter, food and other amenities has led to many victims staying with the abusers who despite their physical and verbal abuse provide these “support”.

But proper support is coming from Nyamukara Empowerment NCP and Godishanang Empowerment Programme, who have approached the department to give survivors skills towards their independence. The non-profit company provides accredited skills to the 30 survivors across the province, to help them become self-reliant and financially independent.

The skills that have been offered to group of young women, some barely out of teenage years, are on sewing and digital literacy on a three-month course. Survivors must be able to stand on their own because when they are financially independent, they are less likely to tolerate abuse.

Twenty- eight of thirty gender-based violence survivors who received three months accredited sewing skills development training, graduated as part of victim empowerment. Graduates were trained on how to make various types of garments. During their graduation ceremony, each graduate modelled an outfit that they made themselves, to show the skills they had acquired during their training period.

Each graduate received a sewing machine that they worked on, as well as an overlocker, an iron, and an ironing board. They were also given laptops to get them started in their new venture.

Speaking on behalf of MEC, Chief Director Integrated Services in Social Development, Ms Masego Mekgwe,

said that an intensive skills programme is to empower gender based violence survivors to be able to be independent and take part in the economy.

“I hope that by working together with Nyamukara, the private sector and other stakeholders, job opportunities will be made available for these brave survivors. You beautiful women should form cooperatives and impart skills acquired to your communities”. She also urged women, children and elders to report any form of abuse.

Dikeledi Motshwari* of Kagisano Molopo was over the moon when she received her sewing machine. She said she will continue to help other victims of gender based violence. “I am going to try and start a business, because I want to help other women and children who are also victims of gender based violence. I will use my machinery to sew school uniform for children whose parents do not afford to buy, as part of my contribution to community development.”

Tolerating abuse based on financial dependency happened to Jessica Kgomoekae* of Borabalo near Wolmaranstad. “My partner was very generous”, Kgomoekae recalls the sweeter days with a lover turned monster. “He used to give me over R8000 a month for me to spend on myself. From this money I could buy groceries and other amenities for my mother and children.

I was living a dream and the thought of abuse from him never crossed my mind. “The first slap came as a shock to me and so it seemed for him”. We had a tiff over the lock password of his phone, which he had confused for mine. His way of showing remorse was to take me shopping, spoiling me with my favourite stuff and I quickly forgave him.

The abuse became sporadic but the thought of being broke and not giving my mother anything kept me in the abusive relationship against my better judgement. “It was on the day he poured hot water on me that I chose my life over him. It has been difficult facing my realities but I have no choice, laments Kgomoekae. I thank God for the day I saw what I thought was a protest march, people clad in orange coming towards my street. Upon asking I was told it is information sharing on abuse and gender-based violence. I joined the march and my life has never been the same again.

My community has elected me to lead the local forum on abused women and children. The forum has chosen me to attend this invaluable training, which I believe should help me.

...Continue on Page 12

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON CHILD PROTECTION

1. How can the Department of Social Development intervene in the plight of an abused child?

- Department provides intervention in the best interests of child in line with the Children's Act 38 of 2005.
- Safety and risk assessment is conducted to determine relevant intervention
- Child abuse therapy is provided to abused children with their families or significant others
- Removal of children to Child and Youth Care Centres is done only if it is in the best interests of the child.
- According to Children's Act, the Department should remove abused children to any registered place of safety.
- Orphans and vulnerable children can also be taken to drop-in centres

2. What happens to children living and working on the streets or unaccompanied minors?

- Our social workers have a right to visit the family of the affected child, do an assessment on the family and child and link the child to a drop in centre in vicinity.
- Depending on the circumstances of the child and family, social workers through court, can place children who have been found to be in need of care and protection in an alternative care facility such as a Child and Youth Care Centre/foster care and or a temporary safe care.

3. What about trafficked children?

- Department provides child care and a basket of protection services for the affected child. It can also place a child in an alternative care whilst court processes unfold.
- Social liaise with other social workers in other provinces and countries of origin where children were trafficked from and repatriate them to their home countries or provinces.

4. If a couple does not have children, is there a way of getting them a child to raise?

- The Department offers adoption services for children who need permanent placement. The process of adoption involves the court of law.

5. Is there a record of persons who are unsuitable to work with children?

- Yes. Part B of the Children's Act 38 of 2005, has the record of persons found in terms of Section 120 to be unsuitable to work with children and to use the information in the Register in order to protect children in general against possible abuse from these persons.

6. What are the consequences of entry of name in the Part B of the Register?

- No person whose name appears in the Part B of the Register may manage or operate or participate or assist in managing an institution providing welfare services to children including child and youth care centre, a partial care facility, a shelter or drop-in centre, a school, a club, a cluster foster care scheme or an association providing services to children. He or she may not be permitted to become a foster parent or adoptive parent of a child.

For more information, read chapter 7 of Children's Act 38 of 2005

WE ARE THE SURVIVORS

Kgomoekae has not fully recovered from the burns that still gives her excruciating pain around her left groin. Coming to Khuseleka has been a healing period for me. "The counselling at the centre has been remarkable.

There is still a lot to be done but the progress is evident. On training from Thushanang, I exceedingly appreciate the lifetime skills I have got. They will help me to regain independence and put into practice traits learnt on customer care. Beside the technical skills, we have been taught to be calm and patient.

I was only 18, when I was locked into a store room just because I wanted to use my phone. Being locked in the dark was not the last of my ordeal that night because I was sprinkled with water from a hosepipe in a cold wintry night. Millicent Parsons* suffered at the hands of her abusive stepmother while her father was at work.

"One day I managed to escape, I went straight to a police station where I was linked with a social worker. I was taken to Khuseleka. Initially, I resisted but to my surprise it turned out to be the best place I could ever be at.

The welcome and warmth at the centre was beyond my expectations. My stay, though I wish could have been longer at the centre rebuilt my confidence.

I found love and non-discrimination among the people who were at the centre. "I was elated when I got the opportunity to learn new skills from Thushanang. The team that offered lessons has been wonderful. Tapping on the wise words of her grandfather, Parsons say she intends to establish a business from sewing.

So far we are able to make clothes from scratch, something I hope will earn me some cash. "For now my focus is not on money but on establishing myself. I have acquired skills on how to use a sewing machine, pricing, basic computer and some entrepreneurial tactics.

Kgomoekae expressed her wish for the department to provide them with continuous support. Indeed, the survivors who have undergone training will receive starter packs to start their businesses.

***The names of the victims are not revealed to protect their identity.**

PRESIDENT CALLS FOR OPEN DIALOGUE TO FIGHT GBV

President Cyril Ramaphosa has encouraged men to engage in open dialogue about their responsibility towards women and toxic masculinity.

"All of society should be mobilised to organise these men's dialogues. Everyday, various entities devote resources to public engagements, conferences and seminars on various pressing social, economic and political issues of the day. These are fora where this engagement should happen," President Ramaphosa said in his weekly newsletter penned as South Africa observes the 16 Days of Activism for no Violence against Women and Children campaign.

The President strongly encouraged government, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the private sector to support such dialogues in every workplace, place of worship, school, college and university and in every community.

"[GBV affects] every aspect of our society, including health and well-being, safety and security, and economic growth and productivity. In these dialogues, we need to examine our understanding of sexual consent. We must challenge the myth that rape is only considered rape if it involves a stranger, or if the victim responded by screaming for help, fighting back or reporting the matter immediately to the police," President Ramaphosa said.

By bringing together men of all races, classes and generations to speak frankly about their understanding of masculinity,

the President said more light can be shed on assumptions and practices that many people consider "normal", which are actually harmful to women and children. "We must change beliefs that men are strong and women are weak, that men have to be in charge, or that men can do as they please with women. Men need to understand that they can and should express their pain and frustrations without inflicting harm on others.

"As President, I stand ready to participate in men's dialogues. I call on Ministers, Premiers, religious, political and community leaders, sports people, artists, celebrities and business people to do the same.

"The men of South Africa owe it to the women and children of this country to take up the struggle against gender-based violence. These men's dialogues can be platforms for men to challenge each other to become better men, to be more responsible, more understanding and more caring," President Ramaphosa said.

President Ramaphosa said the primary focus should be on preventing men and boys from becoming abusers in the first place. "Men are the perpetrators of gender-based violence and it is therefore men that need to change," President Ramaphosa said. President Ramaphosa said it is men, as husbands and partners, fathers, colleagues, peers and classmates, who need to consider their own attitudes towards women and girls. –

SAnews.gov.za

DSD SUPPORT FOR COOPERATIVES EVIDENT

By James Moche



Chief Director Integrated Social Services, Masego Mekgwe presents a dummy cheque to women owned SMMEs at Maboloka in Madibeng

Grace Kolobe (36) is a talented and determined fashion designer. The lady from Koster outside Rustenburg, has a potential of making a lot of money but has been hamstrung by lack of equipment and machinery. Her plight is about to change for the better.

Kolobe is part of the 208 people from across the North West, who received grants to the tune of R4 million as targeted beneficiaries in informal small businesses and cooperatives. The grants are a part of the department of social development's programme of celebrating the rural women's day held in Maboloka outside Brits. The purpose of the day, celebrated annually, is to create awareness of rural women's efforts, challenges, needs, and roles in building communities.

Kolobe says before receiving the R20 000 grant, she could not produce many fashion items, but was confident that her production will increase because she will use the grant to buy industrial machinery.

She is also looking forward to generating more income and be able to employ more people leading to the reduction of unemployment in their area. "I am more than happy," says Kolobe.

Chairperson of Thushanang Maboloka Temothuo, Paul Modise, whose cooperative received gardening equipment worth hundreds of rands says they are happy and satisfied with what they what they got.

He says: "We always wanted equipment to grow our business. Now we have it." The departmental chief director for integrated social services, Masego Mekgwe warned grant recipients against abusing such a well-intended gesture.

She says they will continue to monitor progress on all SMMEs that have received assistance from the department.

"If you fail to use them correctly, we will take them away from you and give them to others who can use them appropriately," says Mekgwe.

Mekgwe also called on communities not to depend on social grants as they are meant to help and not degrade communities. She also advised women not to depend entirely on men as some of the gender-based violence cases strive under such circumstances.

DSD MONEY INVESTMENT CONTINUES TO BEAR FRUITS

By James Moche

AR800 000 funding of a cooperative by the North West Department of Social Development more than six years ago, is continuing to improve the quality of life in the communities. Besides Bogela Bontle cooperative running a successful beat work, sewing and knitting business, the Mahikeng-based institution is now ploughing back by providing training to community members.

Fifteen rural community members, mostly young people, are undergoing an eight-month accredited sewing training. The total cost of the training, which started in October, is R400 000. The trainees also receive a monthly stipend of R1500. Upon completion, they will also get a certificate. As part of their training, attendants had to stage a fashion show.

Twenty-three-year trainee Keatlaletse Tlhasedi of Lokaleng village outside Mahikeng, says she is enjoying the training. She says because of the high levels of unemployment, it is important for a person to acquire a skill so that a person can stand on her own.

Trainee Sekgabo Tanyane (23) also from Lokaleng village, says she wants to learn, get experience and open her own business. Another forty-nine years old Lokaleng village resident, Koketso Seithamo, is excited about the training because he says it will teach them what they did not know.

"After completing training, we will be able to make some



Thirty-one-year-old Thandi Moseithe (31) from Lokaleng village says she is happy to learn sewing. She says upon completion, she will buy her own sewing machine. "It will benefit me," said Moseithe.

Director of Bogela Bontle cooperative, Reginah Dlamini says her entity organised training. She says they were initially supposed to conduct training, but because they are still working on their training accreditation. Sector Education and Training Authority provided funding for the training.

Dlamini says she is looking forward to the day her cooperative will be accredited so that they can extend training to small businesses and children with special needs.



Young people who have undergone training in sewing showcase clothes they made out of refuse bags.

'MEN SHOULD LEAD THE FIGHT AGAINST GBV' - MEC MOILOA AND MINISTER ZULU

By Petrus Siko

The annual 16 days of activism campaign on no violence against women and children, which aims to raise awareness on gender-based violence, has begun. The campaign was launched by North West Social Development MEC Boitumelo Moiloa at Itsoseng in Ditsobotla against the backdrop of alarming rise in the scourge of gender based violence cases in the country.

According to the recent statistics released by SAPS, 13 000 women were victims of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm between July and September this year. More than 10 000 rape cases were opened in the same period with the police. From April to June 2022, 855 women and 243 children were killed in South Africa.

"This is a clear sign of a broken moral fibre in our society. As we gather here to mark the launch of 16 days of activism we dare to make a clarion call to all stakeholders, including religious sector, businesses and every community member to play a role in protecting the women and children. It is time for men to join the fight and become the vanguard of our common struggle to end violence and abuse," Moiloa said.

She added: "The society as a whole must mentor and teach young boys to always value and respect young girl children and women. We also need more men to stand up and make a difference. The voices and actions of men are crucial in the fight against violence and abuse. It is the responsibility of all of us gathered here, to end the culture of silence on gender-based violence and report perpetrators to the police."

"Changing behaviour and ingrained attitudes will not be easy, but men must take the lead in this drive. It is time for men to join the fight and become the vanguard of our common struggle to end violence and abuse," Moiloa said, adding that the 16 Days Activism Campaign continues to generate a heightened level of awareness among South Africans on the deleterious effect and impact of gender-based violence and femicide in society. Over the past two decades, Moiloa said all partners, especially government, working with civil society, have been making concerted efforts to end GBV.

Sixteen days of activism campaign continues to generate a heightened level of awareness among the communities on the deleterious effect and impact of gender-based violence and femicide in society. During the launch Moiloa told the residents who filled the local community hall to capacity that her department is providing funding to 22 organisations to enable them to fight gender based violence in the province. The theme for the observance of this year's campaign is: "Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment to build Women's Resilience against Gender Based Violence and Femicide: Connect, Collaborate, Contract."

Meanwhile, Social Development Minister, Lindiwe Zulu, said men are champions of change in preventing the spread of HIV, and addressing gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) in communities.

"One of the key tasks in preventing gender-based violence in all its forms is to enlist the active participation of men in all communities throughout the 52 districts and metropolitan municipalities of our country," Zulu said. She was addressing the occasion of the National Men's Parliament. The Minister commended the participation of men who have voiced their commitment to non-violence.

'Toxic masculinity puts pressure on boys to be tough and emotionless. These societal constructs of what it means to be a man are extremely harmful to the boys who are being socialised into them, to the men that they become, to our families and to all of society,' Zulu said. She said all men can play a part in dismantling the stigma around mental health by supporting men to access psychosocial support services, particularly mental health support.

'It is really important that we do that because men in general are less likely to seek assistance when faced with family, health, societal, and economic challenges. It is particularly important that we have met here over the last two days to foreground men's agenda and to reflect on the state of the South African men.

'Gone are the days when men were only seen as providers or disciplinarians in families. Men have a critical role to play, particularly with respect to correctly nurturing and socialising their children.' Zulu said men who champion change help in the fight against the multiple social challenges such as HIV, substance abuse and child pregnancies.

'They are not part of these problems. They are on the side of the positive solutions; real solutions that go to the heart of manhood are needed. This starts with building safe spaces by men, for men and with men. Zulu said the perceptions of being overlooked when employment and empowerment opportunities arise are real among men.

'These frustrations, which turn into violent expressions, need alternative avenues and language[of expression]... We do know that many men do not abuse their partners and children. These are the men who continuously strive to embody respect and dignity.' The National Men's Parliament is part of Parliament's initiative to address sector-specific challenges in order to develop a coordinated national plan of action on the role that men should play in the fight against gender-based violence. - Additional information from: SAnews.gov.za

KGWEBO KA BATHO KE TLHOBA BOROKO

Ka Petrus Siko



Modiredi Loago - Lorato Rakatane

Jaaka go ketekwa malatsi a khunologo, modiredi loago kwa lefapheng la Tlhabololo ya Loago, Lorato Rakatane o tsibosa baagi go ikela tlhoko mo bosenyeng jwa go gweba ka batho mo setlheng seno. Bosinyi jwa go gweba ka batho e santse e le kgwetlho e kgolo go ralala lefatshe. Go le gantsi bosinyi jono bo dirwa ke ditlamo tse ekele ke tsa boamaruri tse di batlelang batho ditiro. Di ngokela batswa-setlhabelo ka go ba tshepisa ditiro tsa maemo le megolo e e botoka kwa moseja.

Bangwe ba tshepisiwa ditshono tsa go tsena sekolo ntle le tuelo go fitlhela ba nna le dithutego tse di kwa godimo. Batswa-setlhabelo ba bosenyi jono, Rakatane a re go le gantsi bo akaretsa basadi, basetsana, basimane le bana. Diphasalato tsa ditlamo tse mo maratlhatlheng, melaetsa khutshwe le mo makwalo dikgang di dira gore motho a metse mathe kgapetsa kgapetsa le go ithoma fa a bolaetse mo metsing kante motho wa batho o apeetse mo phefong.

“Le fa ditshepiso tsa ditiro tse di kwadilweng mo diphasalatsong tsa bona e le diphirimisi fela, ba gogela batswa setlhabelo mo thaelong ka go ba raya ba re sepalangwa se rulagantswe, go emetswe wena fela. Mofago wa tsela o teng. Re tla kopana kwa bolebelebe. Fa motho a itharabologelwa, o iphetlhela a le kwa nageng e sele. Bagwebi ba, ba tsaya mogala go akaretsa le lokwalo itshupo la motswa-setlhabelo mme ba dire gore ope wa legae a seka a kgona go golagana nae.”

Fa batswa-setlhabelo ba setse ba rekisitswe kwa mafatsheng a a kgakala ba dirisiwa go dira tiro e e bokete ntle le tuelo. Bangwe ba a bolawa mme go rekisiwe dirwe tsa bona tsa mmele. Bangwe ba dirisiwa go nna makgoba a thobalano.

Bangwe segolo jang basimane, ba dira kwa di-intasteri tsa go tshwara ditlhapi, tsa meepo, temothuo le go patelediwa go tsaya karolo mo dipontshong tsa thobalano e e tlhabisang ditlhong. Bangwe ba ba dira gore ba rekise diritibatsi le go ba tlwaetsa diritibatsi mo ba palelwang ke go gopola gore ga bona ke kwa kae.

Go ya ka mokgatlho o e seng wa puso wa badiri wa boditshabatshaba, ka ngwaga wa 2016 go kabakanngwa gore batho ba le di milione di le someamane phegelwana tharo tsa batho, ba rekisitswe go dira jaaka makgoba, fa ba le di milione di le somethano phegelwana nne ba pateleditswe go tsena mo manyalong a a seng mo molaong.

Fa e le basadi le makgarebe bona, ke diperesente di le somearobongwe robongwe ba dirilwe makgoba a thobalano. Setlhopa sa batho ba ba mo kotsing ya bosinyi jono ke bana ba dingwaga di le somepedi go ya go somenne, bana ba ba nnang mo mebileng, batho ba ba senang magae, go akaretsa batsha ba ba thobileng kwa ditheong tsa kgopololo ya diritibatsi.

Rakatane a re motho mongwe le mongwe a ka kgona go efoga bosinyi jono ka go dira dilo tse di latelang: Se romeng bana ba bannye kwa mabentleleng ba le dingwaga tse di kwa tlase. Kaela bana go sa bue le batho ba ba sa ba itseng. Se ikgatholose bana fa ba tshameka mo mmileng.

Leka fa o ka kgona go lekola ka botlhale gore ngwana wa gago o bua le bo mang mo mogaleng wa letheke go akaretsa le mo mafaratlhatlheng a sejwalejwale. Se itlwaetse go kopa go palama sejanaga sengwe le sengwe. Gana go kopana sefatlhego le sefatlhego le motho yo kopaneng nae mo mafaratlhatlheng. Ka gale itsese batho ba o ba itseng ebile o ba tshepa metsamao ya gago. Se ikatise o le nosi mo tseleng e e senya.

Bega dikgetsi tsa go gweba ka batho kwa sepodising se se gaufi lefa o belaela sengwe.

O ka leletsa nomoro e: **0800 222 777**



CHILD SUPPORT GRANT AND TOP-UP AVAILABLE AT SASSA OFFICES

SASSA (South African Social Security Agency) is encouraging relatives taking care of orphaned children to apply for the Child Support Grant Top-Up at their nearest SASSA offices. Increasing the amount of the Child Support Grant for orphans is aimed at creating a better life for children.

'Top-Up' is an additional amount of R240 that supplements Child Support Grant amount of R480. Only relatives/persons caring for an orphaned child can apply for and receive the Child Support Grant Top-Up of R720 per child per month, if the child is not yet receiving the foster care grant. This provision is as a result of the amended regulations which were promulgated on the 01 June 2022.

The Child Support Grant Top-Up can be applied at all SASSA offices. Caregivers who are looking after their orphaned siblings under 18 years, in child-headed households will be required to see a social worker before they can approach SASSA. A social worker will assess their situation, complete a form in terms of section 137 of the Children's Act.

The following documents will be needed to apply for the child support grant top up:

- Certified copies of the death certificates of the child's parent/s; or
- Where the death certificate of one of the parents of the child cannot be obtained by the applicant, a certified copy of the death certificate of one parent and an affidavit by the applicant attesting to the unknown status of the child's other parent.

Most children apply for child support grant from the age of one year and above, this is according to the analysis done by the South African Social Security Agency.

The agency is on a drive/ campaign of ensuring that children receives financial support as soon as they are born. "Child Support Grant is very important in the early developmental stages of a child's life that is infancy and early childhood (from birth to pre-school).

It improves their nutrition, health and schooling outcomes. The agency is calling upon eligible mothers and caregivers of newly born children under the age of 1 to visit SASSA offices to apply for the grant, urged Zodwa Mvulane, the Regional Executive Manager in the North West.

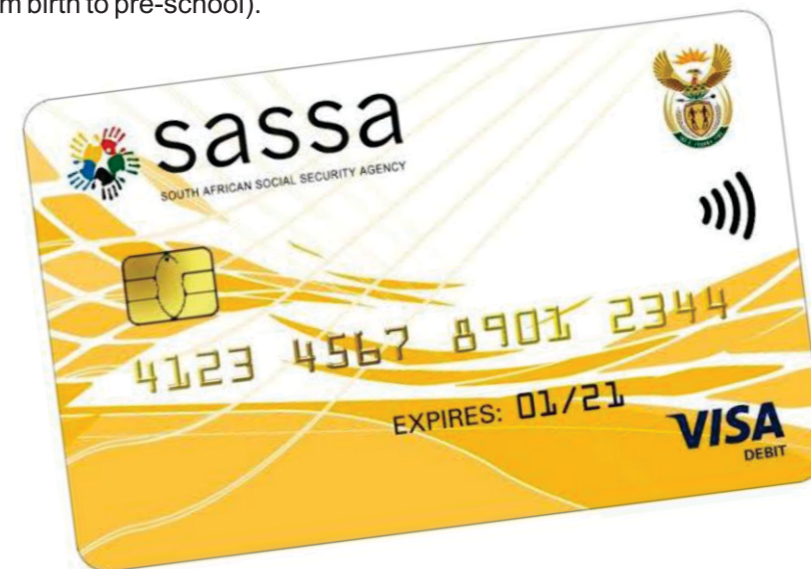
Any person who stays with a child as a primary care giver, a parent or grandparents are eligible to apply on behalf of the children. The following criteria should be met:

- Be a South African citizen or have permanent residency.
- Not earning more than R87 720 a year if you're single.
- If you're married, your combined income should not be above R175 440 a year.

Caregivers are advised that even if they do not have birth certificates for their children, they can use other alternative form of identification such as a clinic card. The grant will be issued out for a period of three months. A birth certificate or proof that one is applied for should be produced within the three months, failing which will result in the grant being terminated.

The child support grant can be applied online via <https://services.sassa.gov.za> or by visiting your nearest SASSA Office.

For more information, contact SASSA on 0800 60 10 11/ 018 397 3360/ 397 3333/ 397 3346/ 397 3301 or grantsenquiriesnw@sassa.gov.za alternatively <https://services.sassa.gov.za>.



FREE STATE TOUCHES BASE IN NORTH WEST

By Boitumelo Bowen

A delegation from Free State Department of Social Development undertook a 200km tour to learn the ropes from the North West department social development's social welfare programmes. Dr Kenneth Kaunda District was chosen as the spear header of the benchmarking session and welcomed the Free State officials with warm hands. The benchmark session was held respectively on 19 October at Muslim Aids Programme (MAP) offices in Klerksdorp and on 20 October 2022 at Boikhutso Community Care Centre in Boikhusto (Ventersdorp).

The purpose of the visit was to assist the Free State officials to re-define and package quality programme implementation. This emanates from a session where provincial departments met to discuss and share their progress on the implementation of HIV response programmes within their respective Provinces. Based on the presentation made by North West department of Social Development, Free State DSD was left impressed and eager to know more.

Upon arrival on the first day Muslim Aids programme officials gave the guests a vibrant MAP style in an outdoor colorful set up. The day's proceedings were centered around funding processes and mechanisms the NW follows when it comes to funding organisation's and implementing programmes.

Muslim Aids Programme (MAP) is a non-governmental organisation that provides comprehensive TB and HIV/Aids Testing (HTS) services operating on a National, Provincial and Local level funded by Social Development. It has one of its branches located in Klerksdorp (Adamyview). Programmes offered by the organisation include You Only Live Once (YOLO), Families Matter Program (FMP), Ke Moja, Men Championing Change (MCC) and Community Capacitated and Enhancement Dialogues (CCE).

A visit to Khuma Library (one of the facilities MAP carries out its programmes) was made to observe the facilitation of the CCE programme. The programme was facilitated by Papi Fundile (MAP facilitator), which left the Free State delegates in awe.

The second day saw a trip taken to Boikhutso Community Care Centre in Ventersdorp. Serving as an add on to the previous day's activities, the visit served as an opportunity to understand the background of the centre, showcase the services it offers and understand its mode of operation. The centre consists of an amphitheater, operates as a Community Nutrition Development Centre (CNDC), playground area and after care facilities, Early Childhood Development Centre (ECD), art room, computer centre and a safe space area for men to voice their matters out in.

Speaking on behalf of the FS delegates, Mamello Phakoe (Acting Social Work Manager) highlighted how at first, she was shocked that they were chosen to learn from the North West Province. "I have to apologise to the North West because at first when I heard that we were coming this side, I was wondering as to what is it that we are going to learn from North West. Upon arrival, I was impressed by the colorful set up and the amount of information that I received.

A lot of work has really been put in to ensuring that programmes are carried out impeccably despite challenges, which made me realise that we have a long way to go and a lot to still learn. Thank you, North West DSD, for feeding us with much needed information and most importantly welcoming us with warm hands. I trust and believe that we now have an idea of how we can move forward and start implementing programmes and policies" she alluded.

The FS delegated comprised of Mamello Phakoe (Acting Social Work Manager), Mookho Shikwambana (Social Work Policy Developer), Limpho Mooketsi, Boitumelo Mojaki, Yvonne Dumane and Palesa Molapi (HIV & Aids Coordinators).



Free State and North West Social Development officials pose for a picture at the end of benchmarking session in Matlosana

WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT DRUGS?

Parents often find out that their children are using drugs when it is too late. At that time, the child is already depended on drugs to the extent that he/she is now stealing items in the house to feed his/her drug habit. A child may tell lies, dropped out of school and becomes uncontrollable. It is the responsibility of each parent to know more about drugs and alcohol and in that way, be able to identify the problem when it arises.

In the drug culture, language plays an important role. It is important that parents know not only the legitimate names but street names for various drugs so as to be able to understand the secret language that the children are using when talking about drugs and be in a position to help them. Take a look at the table below:-

NAME OF DRUG	STREET NAME
Marijuana/Dagga/Cannabis	Dope, skyf, weed, grass, pot, holy herb, Christmas tree, mary jane, MJ, hashish, puff
Alcohol	Spinza
Mandrax	Lizards, flowers, buttons, gholfsticks, press cuts, white pipe, doodies
Cocaine	Coke, C, snow, blow, nose candy, white, Charlie, percy
Heroin	H, smack, china white, brown sugar, junk, gear, mud, skag, Nyaope, sugars, whoonga, unгах, pinch, plazana, kwape, Thai
Ecstasy	Adam, XTC, beans, hug, G, angel dust, love drug, E, Georgina, home boy
Cat (methcathinone)	Cadillac express, wonder star, wi ld cat, bathtub speed
Ice/Tik (crystal methamphetamine)	Meth, candy, rock, crystal, batu, glass, super ice, tik tik, speed
LSD (lysergic diethylamide)	Acid, cubes, blue heaven

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF A PERSON USING DRUG

Signs and symptoms of a person who uses drugs are clear and visible to everyone and these include, decreased appetite, stealing, disappearance of household goods, yellow or stained finger tips, being disrespectful to elders and peers, poor performance at school, sleeps all day and socializing during the night, keeping bad friends, red swollen eye, uninterested in social activities, constantly touching the nose, bad behaviour and he or she is always in possession of match boxes, lotto and tab tickets, bank bags, broken neck bottles and small pieces of foil.

NB. Some of the signs may not necessarily mean that a child takes drugs, however, parents should always be vigilant and aware of their children's behaviour.

For more information on rehabilitation services please kindly contact the Department of Social Development on (018) 388 1651

