



GAUTENG PROVINCE

HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SPEECH

MESSAGE OF SUPPORT BY MEC NOMANTU NKOMO-RALEHOKO MEC FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS IN GAUTENG AND FBO CONVENOR AT THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE OPENING AT THE UNION BUILDINGS

MONDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2024

Programme Directors,
Honourable Premier Mr Panyaza Lesufi,
MEC for Department of Social Development, Ms Faith Mazibuko
Executive Mayor for City of Tshwane, Dr Nosiphi Moya
MMC for Health in Tshwane, Cllr Tshegofatso Mashabela
All HODs present here today, Faith-Based Organisation Leaders,
Community members
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening.

It is an honour to address you today as both the MEC for Health and Wellness and as the convenor of Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) in Gauteng. We gather here not just as government leaders, faith leaders, public servants, and citizens, but as a collective united in the resolve to end the devastating scourge of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) in our communities.

The theme of this year's campaign of, "**30 Years of Advancing Collective Action to End Violence Against Women and Children**", challenges us to reflect on our journey and to recommit ourselves to the fight against this pervasive evil. Gender-Based Violence and Femicide are not just societal issues; they are moral, spiritual, and human crises that require all of us to act decisively.

As a department, we remain steadfast in supporting survivors of GBVF through comprehensive healthcare services. In the 2023/2024 financial year, through our facilities we responded to:

- 11,125 survivors of sexual offences,
- 4,030 cases of domestic violence,
- 6,026 incidents of intimate partner violence, and
- 86 victims of human trafficking.



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These numbers represent lives forever altered. But they also symbolise our responsibility to ensure healing, justice, and dignity for every survivor. I must emphasise that much of this work is done in partnership with FBOs, whose role in providing spiritual counseling, shelter, and emotional upliftment is invaluable.

Faith-based organisations and spiritual caregivers stand on the frontline of this battle. Places of worship must continue to serve as sanctuaries for victims to find solace, offering spiritual strength complementing physical and emotional healing.

Our partnership extends beyond immediate GBVF interventions. Through initiatives like the Palliative Care Programme, FBOs play a critical role in addressing the long-term needs of survivors, including those facing chronic trauma. Your dedication to preserving dignity and providing holistic care embodies the very essence of compassion and humanity.

Programme director, the fight against GBVF is larger than any single institution or government department, it is a fight that demands the collective strength of society and, most importantly, divine intervention. As it is written in Proverbs 31 verse 8 to 9, “**Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice.**” Let us be the voice for the voiceless and the hands that provide healing.

In the spirit of Ubuntu, let us remember the African idiom, “**Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu**”, a person is a person through other people. This reminds us that our humanity is intertwined, and we cannot ignore the suffering of our neighbours. Together, guided by faith and a shared commitment to justice, we can end the scourge of GBVF.

I urge all of us to continue mobilising communities, advocating for peace, and offering hope where despair reigns. Let us strengthen our partnerships and work hand in hand to ensure that every victim of GBVF finds healing, every survivor finds justice, and every community becomes a safe haven.

Let us work together to end the pandemic of GBVF. Together, we can make Gauteng a province where women and children live without fear and where families thrive in dignity and peace.

Thank you.



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As we approach World AIDS Day on 1 December, I urge everyone to participate in activities that promote HIV and STI prevention. Adherence to treatment and regular testing are important in our fight against these diseases. Additionally, the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence on Women and Children, launched yesterday (25 November), calls upon us to stand united against all forms of violence. Our clinics should be sanctuaries of safety and support for all individuals.

Clinic Committees play a crucial role in ensuring that every person who walks through our clinic doors is treated with dignity and empathy. By fostering positive relationships between healthcare workers and the community, we can create a more compassionate and effective healthcare environment.

The GDoH's "***I Serve with a Smile***" campaign aims to enhance patient care by fostering empathy, compassion, and positive service attitudes among healthcare workers. I encourage Clinic Committees to champion this initiative within our clinics, promoting a culture where every patient feels valued and cared for.

Taking healthcare services to underserved communities, including Townships, Informal Settlements, and Hostels (TISH), is necessary. Initiatives like the "Corner-to-Corner" campaign aims to ensure that healthcare reaches every corner of our province. Clinic Committees are instrumental in identifying areas of need and facilitating the delivery of services to these communities.

I commend each of you for your dedication and hard work. Together, let us continue to build a healthcare system that is accessible, compassionate, and responsive to the needs of all our people. Your efforts today lay the foundation for a healthier tomorrow.

Thank you.