

ADDRESS BY THE MEC FOR FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM, MR PAT NGOMANE, MPL, DURING THE ANTI-GENDER BASED VIOLENCE TALK

Friday, 28 August 2020

Mphatsi' wehlelo; boMake naboBabe;

San'bonani

1. Thank you very much, for allowing me to address you this afternoon, on a critical matter that seems to be getting out of control.
2. Like President Cyril Ramaphosa said, **Gender-Based Violence can be surely be labelled as the second pandemic** we are experiencing, after the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Unfortunately, those who are the main victims of this violence and abuse, are women and children, who are the most vulnerable within our communities.
4. They are being **abused, violated and sometimes murdered by the same people who should be protecting them – the half men** within our communities.

5. Yes, I heard myself clearly when I said those who violate women and children are ‘half men’, because **full men are real men, and do not abuse and murder the vulnerable.**
6. Real men understand what it means to become a refuge of the vulnerable women and children within our communities. **Real men would rather sacrifice their lives**, for as long as women and children are protected and feel safe.
7. This second pandemic, called Gender-based Violence, **must be immediately nipped in the bud, and be uprooted** before it is engraved as the way of life, in the minds of the growing boys within our communities.
8. In Proverbs 22 verse 6, it is said that, and I quote: ***“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it”***, unquote.
9. As real men, we must **make it our mission to teach our boy children as early as now, that women and girls are** the most precious gifts to manhood ever.
10. Surely, when they are conscious about that, they will not depart from our teachings when they are older. Our teachings should be through what we do as men; that is, **we must practice what we preach.** As the saying goes, **seeing is believing!**

11. To all real men within our communities, **thank you very much for protecting and standing against the abuse, rape and murder of our mothers and sisters.**

12. As a real men, I am also totally against this barbaric inhumane behaviour of abusing, raping and killing of women and girl children.

13. Please join me in denouncing this unwarranted pandemic. I am aware that **men too are sometimes also abused**, and we denounce that behaviour too.

14. As I close, please **continue to stay safe; wear your mask; wash your hands regularly; and observe safe social distancing.** More importantly, **do not roam around unnecessarily.** Your life and that of your loved ones, is important to us.

Ngiyabonga!