



Written Submission to the Standing Committee on Appropriations and the Select Committee on Appropriations on the 2020 Budget Speech.

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Honourable, SN Buthelezi, MP, Chairperson: Standing Committee on Appropriations.
Honourable, DG Mahlangu, MP, Chairperson: Select Committee on Appropriations.

13 March 2020

Greetings and thank you for considering our submission

The 2020 budget proposals failed to state a straightforward plan with a financial breakdown on how the government plans to fight against gender-based violence in South Africa. Stats SA's latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey shows that South Africa's unemployment rate has hit the highest level in 11 years, at just over 29%. The unemployment rate of black women is currently more than 30 per cent [1]. Which leaves women vulnerable to more crimes that are faced. According to the annual crime statistics, in the 2018/19 period, the SAPS recorded 52,420 sexual offences, which represents an average of 113 rapes reported to the police per day. 90% of victims of sexual violence above the age of 10 were female. An alarming 46.5% of victims of sexual assault were children [2].

In the Declaration of the Presidential Summit Against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, which took place in 2018 the president made a commitment to have a resourced, implemented and monitored National Strategic Plan (NSP) on GBV and femicide [3]. The president then spoke about a 1.1 billion rands comprehensive response to GBV after we stood up as a nation and demanded that GBV is taken as an important issue [4]. To date, this money has not been mentioned, there have been no follow-ups and no sources on where it would be coming from.

The government has had no sense of urgency when coming to matters pertaining to GBV unless when the public puts pressure to have them recognise it as a crisis. Finance Minister Tito Mboweni tabled the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement in 2019, where he mentioned GBV only once. He said: "We should give renewed impetus to the fight against gender-based violence and xenophobia". This was exactly three months after the president stood in front of the nation and stated that GBV is a priority and that the government would treat the scourge as a national crisis. The very same president did not even mention GBV in the 2020 SONA. Why is there a disconnect when unemployment and a weakening economy is spoken about to when GBV is spoken about? All these issues are interrelated to sexual violence and the mass killings that have been happening to women.

This year Minister Tito Mboweni spoke about an additional R15 million which will be for a National Council to combat gender-based violence and femicide. It is puzzling that there are no specifications on what the existing budget is and to which departments it has been allocated to.

The additional R15 million is definitely not the R1.1 billion rands President Cyril Ramaphosa spoke about. Who is in this National Council which the R15 million will be allocated to? What about the funding which is supposed to go into the National Strategic plan? The president presented an Interim steering committee who are still waiting to this day for the government to allocate resources for the NSP so what is it that this National Council will bring which is different from the Steering Committee?

The work that has been done around the ministerial handbook where budget cuts in the vehicles of MEC's and ministers which are now parked at R700 000 and how ministers will no longer get security upgrades in their state and private homes are commendable efforts but not enough. Wasteful and fruitless expenditure in municipalities cost the economy a lot too. For example, when streetlights which are supposed to be serviced by our municipalities are not working it increases the chances of sexual violence against women. Increase the corporate income tax. Why has the corporate income tax been decreasing since 2010 from 34,55% to 28% in 2013 and remained stagnant from 2014 to 2020 with corporates being charged 28%? [5]. According to a study by SA-TIED, it is estimated that South Africa loses about R7 billion a year due to profit shifting by multinational corporations running their businesses in South Africa [6]. Why aren't corporates being taxed their fair share when collectively South African citizens get taxed more. All this money could be used to fight against GBV. We want a straightforward plan with a financial breakdown on how the government plans to fight against GBV in South Africa.

Yours sincerely, Palesa for the amandla.mobi team

References

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[3] Declaration of the Presidential Summit Against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. The Presidency 2 November 2018

[4] Here's What the South African Government has Promised to Do About Gender-based Violence:

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