

BACKGROUND

- Campaign is an international United Nations-endorsed initiative.
- Takes place annually from 25 November (International Day of No Violence against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day).
- Designated by the UN General Assembly to raise public awareness on gender-based violence in line with resolution 54/134 of 17 December 1999
- Given the heightened levels of violence against women, girls, children, people with disabilities, elderly women, the LGBTQIA+ community, women migrant workers, women refugees and asylum seekers, and sex workers in the country, the Campaign has over the years evolved into a 365 Days programme to fight the scourge of gender based violence and femicide (GBVF).

BACKGROUND

- The 16 days between 25 November and 10 December is a period for focused reflection on violence and abuse experienced by women and girls in all their diversity.
- The 16 Days Activism Campaign for this year is being observed through a programmatic approach with emphasis on implementation of the several actions that have been committed towards addressing the issue of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) in the country.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

Based on:

- The Constitution of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996); Bill of Rights - foundation for human rights
- National legislation - to promote and protect the rights and bodily integrity of women
- International and human rights instruments,
- National Development Plan: Vision 2030;
- Medium Term Strategic Framework: 2019-2024.
- ongoing interventions across the work of government, civil society and the private sector within the context of the 7 national priorities outlined by Government.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

- 16 Days Activism Campaign continues to generate heightened levels of awareness on the effect and impact of GBVF on our society.
- Government has been working with civil society; private sector; communities; donor partners; business within a broader approach of 365 days of action
- Despite the concerted efforts - scourge continues relentlessly.
- Taken on unimaginable, brazen and heinous acts of violence and the violation of human rights of women and girls
- Hence the strategic focus is to move from the rhetoric to implementation, accountability and enhancing women's socio-economic opportunity to build their resilience so that they are not victims of GBVF.

RATIONALE

- Key priorities focused on for this year's 16 Days Campaign is that of:
 - ❑ ensuring accountability for full implementation of the National Strategic Plan for ending GBVF as well as cross cutting policies, laws and programmes aimed at addressing GBVF;
 - ❑ Women's economic empowerment and advancement
- Premised on the critical findings from the *South African Gender Assessment* done by the World Bank and the DYWPD which was launched in May 2022.
- The Gender Assessment looked at three dimensions of gender equality viz.: (i) Human Endowments – focusing on health and education; (ii) Economic Opportunities and (iii) women's voice and agency. Findings highlight that:
 - the largest and most persistent gap remains in the area of economic empowerment (WEF, 2021); as well as in the heightened levels of GBVF in the country and the poor or inadequate implementation of the good laws and policies in the country leading to a lack of substantive translation to women's empowerment and gender equality
 - Rationale also premised on the UN Generation Equality Campaign and the country's commitment on the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights, and the Action Coalition on Ending Violence against Women and Girls.

PROPOSED THEME

“Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment to build Women’s Resilience against Gender Based Violence and Femicide: Connect, Collaborate, Contract!”

- The theme is drawing on that of the National Women’s Month, 2022
- This is to ensure the continuation of a programmatic approach with emphasis on both the social and economic empowerment of women
- Intention is to build women’s resilience to be able to walk away from situations of gender based violence and potential femicide.

ACTIVITIES - PRE - 16 DAYS PROGRAMME

- **September - October 2022: Provincial GBVF Summits/Consultations:** Preparations towards National GBVF Summit
- **05-06 October 2022: 2nd Women's Economic Assembly (WECONA):** Presided over by the President and comprises women in business
- **01-02 November 2022: 2nd Presidential GBVF Summit:** Presided over by the President and will be an accountability forum.

ACTIVITIES - 16 DAYS PROGRAMME

- **25 November 2022: Women's Trade Expo and Launch of 16 Days Activism Programme (National Event)**
- 25 November 2022: Gauteng's Men Forum
- December 2022: DWYPD in partnership with North west Province – holding a Men's Forum
- December 2022: DWYPD programme on Maintenance issues – Mpumalanga
- Detailed Calendar of Activities of Departments and Provinces highlights all other activities scheduled

ACTIVITIES - 16 DAYS PROGRAMME

25 November 2022: Women's Trade Expo and Launch of 16 Days Activism Programme:

- It is a gathering of women business across the different sectors, including women's SMMEs, Cooperatives and women informal traders.
- Targeting women businesses from across the country.
- It is taking place at the NASREC Expo Site, Johannesburg, Gauteng
- Done in partnership with government departments, provinces, local government/municipalities and women in business associations and organisations.
- Women businesses will exhibit their products but also be able to sell products as well as network and collaborate with other women businesses and potential investors.

STATUS OF PREPARATIONS: WOMEN'S TRADE EXPO

- **Target Total participation of 3000 women**
- 400 women owned businesses will be exhibiting diverse products and services in the stalls.
- Provinces are supporting at least 10 businesses to the event.
- Gauteng Office of the Premier and the Department of Local Economic Development have been full partners in the planning. Majority of women businesses are from Gauteng. Assisted with mobilisation of women as participants.
- National departments supporting women in business in their sectors to participate in the Expo as well as having their services available at the site
- WECONA has been partnering with DWYPD in bring women businesses to the EXPO; sharing billboards for the advertisement of the EXPO and providing vouchers in partnership with a Bank to assist some women in purchasing on the day.

STATUS OF PREPARATIONS: WOMEN'S TRADE EXPO

- The programme is a full day of exhibitions / sales/ networking/ collaboration
- Formal segment starts at 10h00 – 12h00 for the launch at the Ministerial level.
- Media interviews lined up – throughout the day at the EXPO site
- There will also be side events whereby women will be work shopped on a range on topics relating to conducting business

Thank you



MANDATE: To lead on socio-economic transformation and implementation of the empowerment and participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities through mainstreaming, advocacy, monitoring and evaluation.