

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY ACTING MAYOR OF LEPELLE-NKUMPI
MUNICIPALITY CLLR THOBEJANE MM AT 16 DAYS OF
ACTIVISM AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN ABUSE ON THE
25 NOVEMBER 2011 AT TOOSENH COMMUNITY HALL**

- Programme director
- Madam speaker, cllr Nakedi Sibanda Kekana
- Members of executive committee
- Chief whip veteran molaba
- Councillors
- Magoshi a rena
- Officials from other departments
- Community development workers
- Ward committees
- Representatives from SAPS
- Representatives of Correctional Services
- Representatives from Home Affairs
- Representatives from Department of Justice
- Representatives from Department of Social Development
- Representative from Moral Regeneration Movement
- Representative from Commission of Gender Equality
- Our distinguish Guests
- Ladies and gentleman

Good Morning

We have gathered here today to mark the 12th Anniversary of the 16 Days of Activism campaign for no violence Against Women and Children Abuse in South Africa. This campaign has served as the main social mobilisation tool against the dominance of acts abuse against women and children in South

Africa in general and in LEPELLE-NKUMPI Local Municipality area in particular. We are mindful of the fact that as the organ of state ,we need to mobilise the civil society and all reverent stakeholders to join hands together in order to fight such acts through awareness campaign .It is against this background that we convened this gathering .

Statistics have shown that even though crime in general is decreasing, abuse against Women and Children is still increasing. We are quite aware that other abuse are not reported to relevant authorities .We want to encourage the victims of these abuses to come out and speak about this evil deeds which is , crippling our society and causing acts of suicides and creating homeless amongst children and women .

We believe the inputs as presented by various stakeholders have assisted our community about Violence against Women and Children. We are convinced that the community is now aware about where to go and what to do when these acts occurs. We must challenge the perpetrator and expose them and at the same time change their behaviour.

Programme director it is difficult to get reliable statistics on violence against women in South Africa. Although the number of reported cases is very high, many cases go unreported. The incidence of battery or domestic, violence is particularly hard to measure because the police do not keep separate statistics on assaults cases perpetrated by husbands or boyfriends.

Many women are still unaware of their rights when reporting abuse and even informed Women traumatised by an assault are unlikely to be assertive and insists on their rights. Many Women are afraid of further violence from the perpetrators if they attempt legal action. This is even more compound by the introduction of the new Domestic Violence Act which a lot of women have not yet grasped. The challenge exists for the act, including the regulations to be made an accessible from of legislation to benefit and protect women in all areas of their lives. Effectively implementation of the Act also needs to be ensured, for effective legal preventive measure (protection order) and police escorts to abused women.

The gendered nature of domestic Violence has unfortunately also seen an increase in the number of Women being murdered by their intimate male

partners. Lack of statistical information on this form of killing makes it very hard to measure the extent of the scourge but newspaper reports on this issues , leave little to one`s imagination . These killings demonstrate the culture of male violence against Women and sexism that still pervades our society. Women have fought and succeeded in getting many basic rights yet in private sphere of their homes, the inequality between men and women is still a battle ground.

In conclusion programme director I want to say “BREAK THE SILENCE “

AWAY WITH ABUSE AWAY

FROM PEACE IN THE HOME TO PEACE IN THE WORLD: THE PROLIFERATION OF
SMALL ARMS AND THEIR ROLE IN THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

KE A LEBOGA.