

EPHRAIM MOGALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



VISION: A WORLD CLASS AGRICULTURAL HUB OF CHOICE

**SPEECH BY HIS WORSHIP MAYOR GIVEN MOIMANA ON THE
OCCASION OF COMMEMORATION OF 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM FOR NO
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN ON THE 12 DECEMBER 2022 @
MARBLEHALL TOWN HALL**

Programme Director
Hon Speaker
Chiefwhip of council
Exco members
MPAC Chair
Chair of Chairs
Hon Councilors
Acting Municipal Manager
Directors
Distinguished Guests
Staff populace
Trade unions
Business community
Community members
I greet you!

We are meeting here today to commemorate the two pronged event which is 16 days of Activism and World Aids day which are both commemorated annually between the 25 – 10 December and World Aids day.

Programme Director

You would recall that during covid -19 lockdown the president of the Country likened violence perpetrated by men against women to a second pandemic facing the country and this second pandemic needs to be confronted and uprooted in our communities.

Program Director

This year we commemorate this second pandemic under the theme: ***“Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment to build Women’s Resilience against Gender based Violence and Femicide: Connect, Collaborate, Contract!”***

Programme Director

Gender-based violence is a phenomenon deeply rooted in gender inequality and continues to be one of the most notable human rights violations within all societies. Every year in November 25 is the start of what is known as 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

It is an international campaign, starting on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

GBV is real

According to statistics in South African 51% of women they've experienced GBV. A similar study revealed that one in five women report that they have experienced violence at the hands of a partner.

In 2020/21, 53 293 sexual offences were reported, an average of 146 per day, up from 52 420 in 2018/19. Most of these were cases of rape.

In 2019/20, a total of 2 695 women were murdered in South Africa. This means a woman is murdered every three hours.

Programme Director

Femicide is five times higher in South Africa than the global average, with South Africa having the fourth-highest female interpersonal violence death rate out of the 183 countries listed by the World Health Organization in 2020.

The statistics and figures exclude the vast amount of incidents that go unreported, as well as the incident of violence that are not "overt" or those considered "violent", and the normalized and pervasive gendered violence and discrimination experienced daily.

Programme Director

We should urge men to unite and play a role in bringing an end to the Gender based Violence.

We are making this clarion call to men in Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality to respect their wives and partners by understanding that being in an intimate relationship is never a justification for domestic violence.

Women need to be empowered to detect early signs of abuse and report such cases to the law Enforcement Agencies.

Let us not tolerate abusive relationship in the name of "***Ke a Morata shem***", that is "**TOXIC RELATIONSHIP**" and it should be discouraged and nipped from the bud.

Programme director

We need to empower our communities to report such incidents of GBV as and when they rear their ugly heads!

Let's break the silence!

Let's Act now!

Let's have a conversation with our little Boys and encourage them to embrace and love their sisters

Programme Director

On HIV AIDS , the themed, Equalize and Intergrate to end AIDS, this is a call for action to all our communities to combat the HIV infections.

South Africa has been relentless in its mission to turn the HIV, AIDS, and TB epidemics around and there are notable achievements to celebrate. A review of our efforts in addressing the HIV and AIDS epidemic over the past 20 years, paints a mixed picture.

Programme Director

There have been many scientific advances in HIV treatment, and we now have a much better understanding of the virus more people are receiving antiretroviral treatment, which means HIV infection rates are decreasing.

There is also a scientific optimism around the benefits of treatment as prevention, and progress towards a cure and vaccine.

However, despite these advances, stigma and discrimination persist for many people living with or affected by HIV. A World AIDS Day of 2022 is an opportunity for all South Africans to remind themselves that HIV is still a reality and that it is incumbent on all of us to continue fighting prejudice, stigma and discrimination.

South Africa has come a long way in the fight against HIV and AIDS. In 2012 government implemented the National Strategic Plan on HIV, Sexually Transmitted Infections and Tuberculosis.

Government also scaled up its antiretroviral treatment program. A further expansion is planned from January 2015 to bring South Africa in line with World Health Organization treatment guidelines.

Despite our many advances we still struggle to eliminate the stigma associated with HIV infection and the resultant discrimination. There are still people with limited knowledge of the facts about how to protect themselves and others.

Former President Nelson Mandela said: **"Many people suffering from AIDS and not killed by the disease itself are killed by the stigma surrounding everybody who has HIV and AIDS."**

World AIDS Day is important as it reminds the public that HIV has not gone away and that collectively, there is the need to increase awareness, fight prejudice and improve education to maintain and achieve the aims and objectives of the country as set out in the National Strategic Plan on HIV, STIs and TB.

We are calling more people of this country, Limpopo in particular to join government to mobilize our communities to occupy the frontline in the popular struggle to eradicate HIV/AIDS pandemic and 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

I thank you