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Recent events publicised on the news, once again, demand attention for the protection of women and children, but truthfully this should be an everyday, all-year requirement. On a similar note, a spike in alcohol and drug usage and abuse have been reported. Alcoholism is not only linked to negligence but is the leading cause of violence and many other social ills. There is a **Substance Abuse toll-free number** available for those who seek help: **0800 12 13 14**. The safety and protection are the responsibility of our law enforcers, churches and communities at large. This edition draws attention to gender-based violence and will provide information on the interventions available to women, men and the youth of our country.

Yours in development,
Mrs Thamo Mzobe
Chief Executive Officer

Activism for the Safety of Women and Children

What is violence against women and children?

Violence takes many forms, for example:

- Physical violence in the form of domestic violence, terrible violent crimes such as murder, robbery, rape and assault.
- Emotional violence and trauma at many levels caused by many factors. Women and children in their homes, at work, at schools, on our streets, in our communities, suffer this form of violence for various reasons.
- Another terrible blight of our democracy is the violence of poverty, starvation, humiliation and degradation, especially against women and children. Poverty, inequality and unemployment are conditions under which violence thrives.



#SendMe #ThumaMina

Contact the 24-hour Gender Based Violence
Command Centre toll-free number:
0800 428 428 to report abuse.

What can you do?

Together, individuals and communities can take action by supporting *Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children* by:

> Volunteering and supporting NGOs and community groups focused on abused women and children:

- Many organisations need assistance from the public.
- You can volunteer your time and contribute to the work of institutions.
- Help plant a garden at a shelter, sponsor plastic tables and chairs for kids at a clinic or join an organisation as a counsellor.
- Use your skills and knowledge to help the victims of abuse.

> Speak out against woman and child abuse:

- Encourage silent female victims to talk about abuse and ensure that they get help.
- Report child abuse to the police.
- Encourage children to report bullying to school authorities.
- Men and boys are encouraged to talk about abuse and actively discourage abusive behaviour.
- Seek help if you are emotionally, physically or sexually abusive to your partner and/or children.

Call the Stop Gender Based Violence helpline (0800 150 150).

- Talk to friends, relatives and colleagues to take a stand against abuse of women and children.
- Try to understand how your own attitudes and actions might perpetuate sexism and violence.
- Spread the message on social media.

> Start/join Community Policing Forums (CPFs):

- The community and the local police stations are active partners in ensuring local safety and security.
- The goal is to bring about effective crime prevention by launching intelligence-driven crime-prevention projects in partnership with the local community.
- For more information on how to start or join, contact your local police station.

Source:

<https://www.gov.za>

MINISTER LINDIWE ZULU CONDEMNS VIOLENT CRIMES AGAINST OLDER PERSONS AND CALLS THE PUBLIC TO PROTECT THEM AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

On World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, commemorated annually across the globe, the Minister of Social Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu condemned violent crimes against older persons and calls on members of the public to care and protect them against the brutal attacks and the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. Older persons are at a significantly higher risk of severe diseases and the coronavirus.

This year's World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was commemorated under the theme: "listening to the voices of older persons amid the coronavirus pandemic". In South Africa, this day comes in the wake of a recent surge in cases of gender-based violence reported during the lockdown period. It also comes following a brutal rape and murder of a 75-year old woman in Sweetwaters, KwaZulu-Natal (by criminals who pretended to be law enforcement agents) and the barbaric double murder of a 91-year old man and 85-year old woman in Lusikisiki, Eastern Cape.

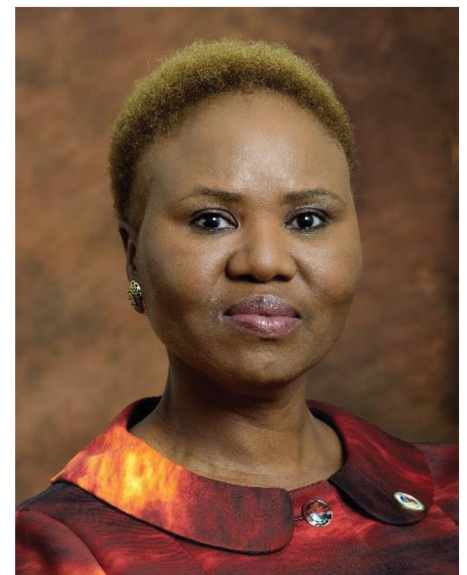
"At a time when our senior citizens are concerned about their health and safety due to the COVID-19 pandemic, criminals are taking advantage by attacking the most vulnerable who cannot even defend themselves. What kind of society abuses senior citizens, instead of cherishing them? We strongly condemn any form of violence against senior citizens in our country, and we urge our law enforcement agencies to bring the perpetrators of these senseless acts of utter barbarism to face the full might of the law," said Minister Zulu.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 66/127 which designated the 15th of June as *World Elder Abuse Awareness Day* to support the rights of older persons to a dignified life free of violence and abuse. Elder abuse is a global phenomenon that takes many forms including physical, emotional, sexual and financial abuse. Older persons are particularly vulnerable to these forms of abuse as they are unable to defend themselves. Research shows that age,

gender and dependency increase the risk of abuse, with women suffering the most. What is more concerning is that some of these abuses are perpetrated by close family members and institutions that are meant to care and protect them.

Minister Zulu expressed her concern about the implications for older people as confirmed positive cases of the coronavirus continue to increase in South Africa.

"Over the last few days, we have witnessed widespread community transmission of the virus in many parts of our country, with confirmed cases now surpassing 60 000, and over 1000 reported deaths. We know that over 63 percent of the reported deaths occurred in those aged 60 and above. While we emphasise that everyone is at risk of contracting the virus, our senior citizens are at greater risk of infection due to ageing, decreased immunity and comorbidities. This pandemic threatens to reverse the significant gains we have recorded in improving life expectancy in our country. We therefore need to act in solidarity with them by preventing the community transmission to this vulnerable group by giving them love, care, support and ensuring that they are protected against infection at all times," said Minister Zulu.



Minister of Social Development: Ms Lindiwe

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT'S SAFE SPACE LOUNGE: EXCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT HAVEN FOR MEN

Some residential facilities in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape have reported coronavirus infections and deaths. The total number of deaths reported so far is 27, with 127 confirmed positive cases among older persons. As of today, the total number of reported confirmed cases among support staff, including nurses, is 221.

As part of its ongoing national effort to protect and promote the human rights of older persons, particularly in the context of COVID-19 pandemic, the Department has temporarily suspended all external visits to residential facilities across the country and prioritised the training of nurses and support staff. To date, 199 nurses were trained to conduct screening and testing within the residential care facilities. The Department is also working jointly with the Department of Health to roll out flu vaccinations for older persons, ensuring that all facilities are provided with personal protective equipment and are compliant with all the precautionary measures to contain the further spread of the virus.

The Department currently funds 418 residential facilities that provide care and support for older persons throughout South Africa. An amount of R 1.75 million has been set aside to assist residential facilities to prevent and contain the spread of the virus.

The Department of Health and the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) will monitor the COVID-19 cases at residential facilities for older persons.

In addition, the Department has partnered with NICDAM and First National Bank to enable 89 resources for residential facilities on infection control, health and safety guidelines and palliative care, amongst others. All these measures are aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19 and protecting older persons in residential facilities as they are at an increased risk of severe illness.

With regards to income support, the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) currently pays old age grants to over 3 million persons aged 60 years and above on a monthly basis. The recipients of old age grants received a top-up amount of R250 as part of government's socio-economic measures to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the poor and most vulnerable. To comply with the disaster management regulations, SASSA has staggered the payment of social grants, with priority given to older persons and persons with disabilities.



▲ Top: Social Development Deputy Minister Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu and MEC Boitumelo Moiloa unveiled the Safe Space for Men Lounge
▲ Bottom: Ipelegeng Community Care Centre in Schweizer-Reneke

Deputy Minister of Social Development, MME Henrietta Bogopane-Zulu, officially opened the first Safe Space for Men's Lounge at Ipelegeng Township, Schweizer-Reneke in the North-West province. The lounge will offer full support services to address and engage on social challenges that exclusively influence and affect men. The service offering will include counselling, support groups and referrals to further assistance where necessary. A male Social Worker and Administrator will facilitate and drive the initiatives of the lounge under the guidelines of Men Championing Change programme, which strives for social change and gender equality.

The Lounge is housed within the newly constructed Ipelegeng Community Care Centre (ICCC), consisting of five building blocks that include an early childhood development centre, drop-in centre, food kitchen, amphitheatre, inclusive ablution facilities, meeting rooms as well as administration offices.

"This centre is designed to be a one-stop community shop to address poverty and social ills associated with the lack of jobs, lack of education and economic opportunities. It is the first of its kind and in the future all care centres will house a Men's Lounge. I am extremely proud with the addition of the exclusive Men's Lounges, particularly as we commemorate *16 Days of Activism against Women and Children* and in our efforts to remove gender-based violence and femicide in communities. It is important to allow men a voice and a place where they can feel worthy to become better members of society. All men will feel safe here, through guided interactions and active participation programmes. Moreover, elderly, vulnerable and poor persons will receive daily nutritional meals from this centre. In addition, weekly parenting and youth development programmes will be facilitated and availed. Basically, this is a haven for the entire community – there is space for everyone, and no one will be turned away," says Deputy Minister Bogopane-Zulu.



- SAPS Emergency Services:** 10111
- Childline South Africa:** Report child abuse to Childline South Africa's toll-free line: **0800 055 555**
- GBV Command Centre:** Contact the 24-hour Gender Based Violence Command Centre toll-free number **0800 428 428** to report abuse.
- South African Police Service:** Report all cases of rape, sexual assault or any form of violence to a local police station or call the toll-free Crime Stop number: **086 00 10111**
- Legal Aid South Africa:** Call the toll-free Legal Aid Advice Line **0800 110 110** for free legal aid if you cannot afford one.
- Commission for Gender Equality:** Report Gender Discrimination and Abuse: **0800 007 709**
- South African Human Rights Commission:** Call **011 877 3600** to lodge a complaint about human rights violations.
- Domestic Violence Helpline:** **0800 150 150**
- AIDS Helpline:** **0800 012 322**

> PROJECT PROFILE

NAME OF PROJECT:	Baheso Brick-making and Multi-purpose Cooperative
LOCATION:	33 Community Road, Floors Township Kimberley (Francis Baartman District, Northern Cape)
IMPACT:	The project employs ex-offenders that find it hard to secure employment, integrating them back into the community. They provide materials to Build It in Kimberley as well as sales directly to the public.
ESTABLISHED:	2010
DIRECT BENEFICIARIES:	5 Females
INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES:	14 Staff members (13 males, 1 female)
ACTIVITIES:	Brickmaking for low cost housing projects in and around Kimberley
PRODUCTS:	Block (R8,60 each) and maxi bricks (R3.65 each)
STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT:	Economic Development in 2013 (brick-making machinery); Letsatso Borutho Trust in 2014 (materials)
NDA FUNDING:	R293 034 was used to purchase a forklift and wrapping machinery in 2015
SUSTAINABILITY/MARKET:	Build It
CONTACT DETAILS FOR NDA:	Ms Masabata Taole on 053 831 4828 (should you need to contact this project)

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