**REMARKS BY KWAZULU-NATAL PREMIER NOMUSADUBE-NCUBE DURING THE MULTI-SECTORAL 365 DAYS OF ACTIVISM FOR NO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN RE AT ENKANINI SPORTS CENTRE, IN UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY ON SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER 2022**

Programme Director;

Members of the Executive Council;

KZN Director-General, Dr N.O. Mkhize;

Senior Government Officials;

District Mayors;

Local Mayors;

Councillors;

Faith-based Leaders;

Traditional Leaders;

Traditional Healers;

Members of AIDS Councils;

People Living with Disabilities;

People Living with HIV;

Members of the LGBTQ+ Community;

Citizens of Ugu District Municipality;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Sanibona!

**INTRODUCTION – GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IS A CRIME**

It is a pleasure to wrap up the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children Campaign in Ugu District, a district which is a haven for tourists who boost the financial coffers of our beautiful province.

Wrapping up this campaign does not mean we are officially opening the floodgates for women and children to become punching bags and stomping grounds for violence perpetrators.

Even though the 16 days campaign officially ends today (which is International Human Rights Day), the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government resolved to shine spotlight on GBV for 365 days a year.

Women and children face GBV daily, hence our collective resolve to fight it every day.

Like many pandemics, gender-based violence is a scourge which reverses and derails the gains of democracy. Gender-based violence is generally described as a crime committed by men against women and children.

Although this description is true and accurate, but it excludes men as victims of gender-based violence.

Men are also on the receiving end of GBV but are afraid to report it for fear of being ridiculed by the communities they live in.

Reports abound of men who are reluctant to report cases of gender-based violence to police stations, preferring to suffer in silence to keep their dignity intact.

We appeal to the police to treat all gender-based crimes on an equal basis and to refrain from poking fun at men who suffer abuse and violence at home as this discourages men from reporting GBV cases.

We condemn this because it perpetuates stereotypes against men who are victims of GBV.

**IZIGIGABA ZOKUBULAWA KWABESIFAZANE OGWINI**

Indawo yasoGwini ingenye yezidume kabi ngokuhlukunyezwa nokubulawa kwabantu kanye nokucana komalugaju (serial killers) kulesi sifundazwe.

Sizokhumbula phambilini ukuthi kwake kwacanasa umalugaju uThozamile Taki, owayeholela oPhathe abantu besifazane ngokubathembisa umsebenzi, ngemuva kwalokho anikele nabo ezimobeni zaseMzinto lapho ayebadlwengula khona bese ebabulala.

Icala lakhe laba nedumela elikhulu.

Ngenhlanhla wagcina egwetshwe udilikajele, isigwebo sawo asidonsa ejele elikhulu laseKokstad.

Eminyakeni embalwa edlule kuphinde kwanezinsolo zokucanasa kukamalugaju ngesikhathi kutholakala izidumbu zabantu besifazane ezimobeni eMthwalume, okusolwa ukuthi badlwengulwa ngaphambi kokuthi babulawe.

Ngeshwa owayesolwa ngokuba ngumalugaju wazibulala ngaphambi kokuthi aboshwe ngamaphoyisa.

Muva nje kusanda kuba nesigameko esihlasimulisa umzimba lapho owesilisa abulala owesifazane athandana naye ngepiki.

Kungani zidlange kangaka izigameko zokubulawa kwabesifazane kulesi Sifunda sasoGwini?

Singumphakathi kumele sithathe izinyathelo ngokubabika labo abangcolisa igama leSifunda uGu.

Uma sisonga izandla, bazoqhubeka nokuqotha imbokodo nesisekelo, bebulala omama besizwe nekusasa lesizwe.

**THEME FOR TODAY’S EVENT**

Ingqikithi noma isiqubulo somkhankaso wanamuhla sithi: **“Siphucula Amalungelo Abesifazane Ukuze Babe Namandla Okubhekana Nokuhlukunyezwa/Enhancing Women’s Socio-economic Empowerment and Rights For Building Back Better For Women’s Resilience”.**

Kubalulekile ukuthi abesifazane nezingane bahlonyiswe ngakwezomnotho ukuze bakwazi ukubhekana nokuhlukunyezwa ngokobulili nangokodlame emakhaya.

Abesifazane abaningi bathola ukuhlukumezeka ngoba bathembela emadodeni ukuthi abondle – lokho okugcina kubenza babe yizisulu zodlame lobulili.

Ukuhlomisa abesifazane ngokomnotho kuyabasiza ukuthi bazimele, bakwazi nokubhekana nokuhlukunyezwa.

Siyathemba nibonile namuhla ukuthi abantu besifazane balapha oGwini bayazisebenza isikhathi esiningi, lokho kubanika amandla okulwa nesihlava sokuhlukunyezwa.

Mphakathi wasoGwini, kuningi okwenziwa nguHulumeni wesiFundazwe ukulwa nokuhlukunyezwa nokubulawa kwabantu besifazane Kanye nabantwana.

Uhulumeni unezindawo ezibizwa ngamaThuthuzela Centre, ezikhoselisa izisulu zodlame lwasemakhaya olugcina lubhidlize imizi.

Ukubhidlika kwamakhaya kunemiphumela emibi emindenini nasemphakathini. Ucwaningo luveza ukuthi abantwana abaphuma emindenini ehlukumezekile, baba ngumthwalo womphakathi. Kumele silwe nesihlava sokuhlukunyezwa kwabesifazane nezingane ukuze sigweme le miphumela emibi emiphakathini,

Ucwaningo olwenziwe yi-United Nations Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls luveza imiphumela emibi ezinganeni ezivela emakhaya anodlame.

Abacwaningi babeka kanje: **“Maningi amathuba okuthi Izingane eziphuma emakhaya anodlame nazo zibe ngabahlukumezi uma sezikhulile. Ucwaningo lwakamuva luveza ukuthi abafana abahlala nobaba abahlukumeza onina, nabo uma sebekhulile bangahlukumeza labo abathandana nabo.”**

Gender-based violence presents itself in manifold forms which include rape, physical and sexual abuse of women and children.

According to the late former United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, violence against women is an impediment to peace, progress and prosperity:

**“Violence against women is perhaps the most shameful human rights violation, and it is perhaps the most pervasive. It knows no boundaries of geography, culture or wealth. As long as it continues, we cannot claim to be making real progress towards equality, development and peace**.**”**

It is true that gender-based violence undermines development, equality and humanity of the community where this scourge shows its ugly head. For real development and equality to take place, it is crucial that we do not bury our heads in the sand and nip GBV crime in the bud.

In fact, gender-based violence needs to be declared as a crime against humanity. It is one of the worst crimes perpetrated against women and children.

We urge the victims of GBV to access help, advice as well as counselling pertaining to all forms of violence prevalent in this community.

**UMPHAKATHI MAWULWE NESIHLAVA SOKUHLUKUNYEZWA KWABESIFAZANE NEZINGANE**

We also appeal to members of the community to be vocal when they witness acts of abuse and violence being committed against women and children. These horrific acts need to be reported to relevant authorities immediately. Silence encourages perpetrators of GBV to commit it with impunity when members of the community turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to it.

Women experience gender-based violence even from the workplace, from their colleagues and managers. We beg them to report these perpetrators, even if they hold positions which are held in high esteem in the community, province or in the country. An example needs to be made of those who play with fire by embarking on acts of gender-based violence.

Financial dependence on the person who commits gender-based violence is not a viable reason to stay In that abusive relationship.

Sicela nezihlobo zalabo abahlukunyezwa ngabayeni babo zipheze ukubagquzela ukuthi babekezelele umendo onodlame.

Ziyojabula yini izihlobo uma ngelinye ilanga esehlukunyezwe waze wabulawa lowo ebezimeluleka ngokuthi abekezelele indoda enesihluku?

Umuntu okuhlukumezayo usuke engakuthandi.

Phansi ngamadoda ahlukumeza amakhosikazi phansi!

Phansi ngabafana abahlukumeza amantombazane phansi!

Umuntu ohlukumeza omunye uzehlisa isithunzi, kumele ashaywe ngamahloni.

Sinxusa amadoda ukuthi alwe nokuhlukunyezwa Kanye nokubulawa kwabesifazane.

Ngisho emandulo, abantu besifazane babengabulawa ngisho kunempi, pho thina sisithathaphi isibindi sokubulala abantu besifazane nezingane?

Isizwe esibulala abesifazane nezingane sizibulala sona nekusasa laso ngoba abesifazane bangomama besizwe kanti izingane zona ziyikusasa lesizwe.

**USUKU LWAMALUNGELO ABANTU EMHLABENI**

Sike sasho ekuqaleni ukuthi namuhla sigoqa umkhankaso wezinsuku ezingu-16 wokulwa nodlame olubhekiswe kwabesifazane Kanye nabantwana. Ukuwugoqa kwethu lo mkhankaso kasisho ukuthi sekumele bahlukunyezwe abesifazane nezingane, sithi mabaphathwe kahle unyaka wonke, usuku nosuku.

Namuhla sigubha uSuku Lwamalungelo Abantu Emhlabeni Jikelele. Ngomhlaka 3 Disemba besigubha Usuku Lwabantu Abakhubazekile Emhlabeni Jikelele, siqhakambisa amalungelo abo nokuthi nabo bangabantu njengathi sonke.

Ukukhubazeka emzimbeni akusho ukuthi kukhona izinto ongeke ukwazi ukuzenza. Umhlaba unabantu abaningi emhlabeni abayizihlabani nosaziwayo yize bekhubazekile.

Ukukhubazeka akusona isithiyo esivimba ukuthi umuntu aphumelele empilweni.

Kuyiphutha elikhulu ukukhipha inyumbazana nokucwasa omunye umuntu ngoba nakhu ekhubazekile.

Kumele abantu abakhubazekile sibanakekele futhi sibaphathise okwamaqanda noma okwezikhali zamaNtungwa.

Okhokho bethu babebahlonipha futhi bebazisa abantu abakhubazekile. Pho thina sikuthathaphi ukuthi sibabukele phansi futhi sibacwase?

We urge members of the community to honour memories of our ancestors by showing kindness, and compassion to people living with different forms of disabilities.

Let us refrain from calling them derogatory and unsavoury names. People living with disabilities are South African citizens whose rights are entrenched in the Constitution of the country.

Ladies and gentlemen, the untold damage caused by Covid-19, July unrest and the April floods on the economy, jobs and livelihoods - dealt a major blow on people living with disabilities.

Many were unable to receive their grants on time as some of the facilities where they receive such grants were either looted or burnt to the ground during the July mayhem.

Caught between a rock and a hard place, people living with disabilities had to navigate the thorny path of daily discrimination from members of the public while dealing with painful consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic and the July civil unrest.

To face discrimination while suffering, is a very bitter pill to swallow for people living with disabilities.

It is equally devastating to learn that people living with disabilities are ridiculed and looked down upon because of the situation they did not bring on themselves.

Ladies and gentlemen, people living with disabilities have been with us from time immemorial.

Let us respect and embrace them as one of ours.

Treating them with dignity and decorum boosts the confidence of those who live with disabilities and it can encourage them to be the best that they can be.

As the Provincial Government of KwaZulu-Natal, we preach the gospel of social cohesion and peaceful co-existence among the people of the province, yet people living with disabilities feel as if this does not resonate with them as they face discrimination and alienation in their daily lives.

Ladies and gentlemen, the welfare and prosperity of people living with disabilities demand that we unite to fight for their rights as rightful citizens of South Africa.

Kuningi okwenziwa nguhulumeni ukusiza abantu abaphila nokukhubazeka. Uhlelo lwethu i-Operation Sukuma Sakhe, lubeka eqhulwini abantu abadala, abakhubazekile, abesifazane Kanye nezingane ezidla imbuya ngothi.

Nibonile namuhla abantu abakhubazekile nabesifazane besikhombisa amabhizinisi abo abasizayo ukuxosha ikati eziko. Yilokho uhulumeni akufisayo: ukuthi abantu abaphila nokukhubazeka kanye nabesifazane bakwazi ukuzimela, ukuze bangabi yizisulu zokuhlukunyezwa nokubukelwa phansi emphakathini.

Programme Director, we fully agree with those who say that disability does not indicate inability.

Examples abound locally and internationally of people who rose above disability to achieve in life.

In our province we have numerous people with disabilities who inspire confidence and show the nation that one can achieve anything if they put their mind to it.

One such person is author, artist and motivational speaker Musa Zulu, who survived a horrific road crash and did not allow the accident to hinder his progress in life. He uses his disability to motivate others that there is life after disability.

We hope that people with disabilities can emulate Musa Zulu by turning challenges into opportunities for progress, development and upliftment.

Ladies and gentlemen, our province is proud to have people with disabilities who are role models and shining stars to our communities. Let us use their talents so that they continue to be an inspiration to many people.

Mphakathi wasoGwini, ucwaningo luveza ukuthi abantu besifazane abakhubazekile basengcupheni enkulu yokudlwengulwa uma beqhathaniswa nalabo abangakhubazekile. Ucwaningo luveza ukuthi lokhu kuyedlulela kakhulu kulabo besifazane abangafundile, abangasebenzi futhi abathembela kwabanye ukuze baphile.

Lolu cwaningo oluthusa kanje, lwenza kube mqoka kakhulu ukuthi sibavikele abantu abakhubazekile ngoba kuningi ababhekana nakho empilweni.

Ngalolu Suku Lwamalungelo Abantu Emhlabeni Jikelele, kubalulekile ukuthi sikhumbuzane ukuthi abantu abakhubazekile banamalungelo okuthi basebenze, bafunde futhi bakwazi nokuthola usizo lwezempilo, ngale kokuthi bacwaswe noma bakhishwe inyumbazana.

Abantu abakhubazekile banamalungelo okuthi bakhelwe imizi enesithunzi futhi efanele izidingo zabo.

Okubaluleke kakhulu ukuthi abantu abakhubazekile nabo kumele banikwe amathuba okuthuthuka nokuphumelela empilweni ngoba amalungelo abo avikelwe nguMthethosisekelo wezwe.

**ABAPHILA NESANDULELA NGCULAZI NABO BANAMALUNGELO**

USuku Lwamalungelo Abantu Emhlabeni luyabavikela nalabo abahaqwe yi-HIV ukuze bangacwaswa futhi bangakhishwa inyumbazana ngenxa yokuphila nalesi sifo.

Kubalulekile ukwazi ukuthi kukhona abatheleleka ngalesi sifo ngenxa yokunukubezwa ngokocansi.

Abanye batheleleka ngaso ngenxa yokuthekela igazi lo muntu ohaqwe yilesi sifo.

Kukhona nabantwana abazalwa benaso, iningi labo selikhulile, abanye babo sebeyasebenza – abanye bafunda ezikhungweni zemfundo ephakeme.

Lokhu kuveza ngokusobala ukuthi lesi sifo kasisafani nakuqala, lapho kwakufana nokuthola isigwebo sentambo ukuba naso.

Pho thina sibagwebelani ngokuthi sibabandlulule, sibacwase futhi sibahlebe?

Ukwenza lokho kudala ukuthi abaningi bagcine sebeyekile ukuthatha imishanguzo ngenxa yokucwaswa. Ukuyeka ukuthatha imishanguzo kwenza igciwane libe namandla, libhebhetheke ligcine selingasalawuleki.

Kuyasidumaza ukuzwa ukuthi kukhona abasebenzi boMnyango wezeMpilo ababacwasayo abantu abahaqwe yiHIV uma bezolanda imishanguzo emitholampilo nakwezinye izindawo.

Siyawukhuza lo mkhuba futhi sinxusa ukuthi umphakathi ubabike ezikhulwini labo abenza lokho ngoba kungumkhuba omubi.

Sinxusa labo ekade sebeyekile ukuthatha amaphilisi, baqhubeke nokuwathatha ukuze baphile isikhathi esithe futhi esinempilo enhle.

Bangakhohlwa ukuzivocavoca nokudla ukudla okunomsoco ukuze amasosha abo omzimba ahlale esesimweni esihle sokulwa negciwane.

Ziningi izindlela zokuzivikela ekuhaqweni yizifo zocansi ezithathelanayo.

Kubalulekile ukuzithiba kuze kushaye isikhathi lapho ozithola khona ususemweni sokuthatha isinqumo esiphusile ngokuya ocansini.

Kulabo abahluleka ukuzithiba, likhona ijazi lomkhwenyana.

Okuhle manje ukuthi sesinalo nejazi likamakoti, ngakhoke kasikho isizathu sokutheleleka ngezifo zocansi ezithathelanayo uma kunezindlela eziningi kangaka zokuzivikela kuzona.

**UHLELO I-OPERATION MBO**

Mphathi woHlelo, ngaphandle kokusonga izinsuku ezingu-16 zokuhlukunyezwa kwabesifazane nabantwana, namuhla sinohlelo olubizwa nge-Operation Mbo oluveza ububi bokuhlukunyezwa kwabesifazane nezingane, oluphinde futhi luqhakambise imisebenzi ebalulekile elethwa yiminyango kahulumeni kubantu.

Lokhu sikwenza ngoba singuhulumeni wabantu, ozikhathalelayo izidingo zabantu futhi oqikelelayo ukuthi lezo zidingo zifika qathatha kubantu.

Sinxusa umphakathi ukuthi uzisebenzise lezi zinhlelo ngoba zihlomulisa wona.

Ukulwa nezihlava ezahlukene ezihlasela imiphakathi yethu kakukona okukahulumeni kuphela. Uhulumeni ungazinqoba izihlava zokuhlukunyezwa kwabantu besifazane nezingane uma ubambisene nomphakathi.

Ngokubambisana nomphakathi uhulumeni ungalwa futhi uzinqobe izifo ezifana neHIV, TB, indlala nobubha nokunye okuhlukumeza abantu emiphakathini.

Singakunqoba ukucwaswa kwalabo abathandana nobulili obufana nobabo uma singabambisana nomphakathi.

Kumele sazi ukuthi nabo banamalungelo okuzikhethela ukuthi bafuna ukuthandana nabantu abanjani, ngakhoke akumele sibahlulele ngalokho.

**ISIPHETHO**

Kusijabulise kakhulu ukuzogoqa uMkhankaso Wezinsuku Ezingu-16 Wokulwa Nokuhlukunyezwa Kwabesifazane Nezingane kuMasipala weSifunda uGu.

Abantu basoGwini bazalwa bembethe – angazi ukuthi sekungokwesingaki kulo nyaka sivakashela kulesi Sifunda ukuzolumana indlebe nezakhamuzi zakhona.

Njengoba sigoqa uMkhankaso Wezinsuku Ezingu-16 Wokulwa Nokuhlukunyezwa Kwabesifazane Nezingane, siyagcizelela ukuthi abantu besifazane nezingane kumele baphathwe kahle unyaka wonke.

Njengoba sekusele izinsuku ezimbalwa ukuthi uphele unyaka, sinifisela isikhathi samaholidi esinothando nokuthula.

Kulabo abazochitha amaholidi ezindaweni ezikude, sengathi bangaba nohambo oluphephile.

Nikhumbule ukugwema ukushayela izimoto uma umuntu esephuze amanzi amponjwana ngoba lokho kungadala inhlekelele edlula nemiphefumulo yabantu.

Masigweme ukusebenzisa izidakamizwa ngoba ziholela odlameni nasekuhlukunyezweni kwabantu besifazane nezingane.

Masihloniphane, sazisane futhi singacwasani.

Ngokubambisana sakha iKwaZulu-Natal ehlonipha amalungelo abantu bonke emhlabeni, engacwasi ngokwebala, ubuzwe, ubulili nangokukhubazeka.

Siyabonga.