

**External Communications Unit
Press / Media Release**

To : All media
Attention : News Editors & Journalists
Date : 30 November 2011

For the attention of all media houses

Sixteen Days of Activism

The Sixteen Days of Activism is a global campaign which takes place from 25 November to 10 December and aims to raise awareness around gender based violence. The Sedibeng District Municipality in partnership with the Provincial Departments of Social Development and Community Safety respectively, will be hosting a Gender Based Violence Dialogue, on the 7th December, at the Bophelong Community Hall.

The Dialogue will be held in two phases, the 1st a door to door targeting Hotspot areas and creating awareness on GBV Prevention and disseminating information; and the 2nd a formal dialogue programme which will include the Executive Mayor of the Sedibeng District supported by Members of the Mayoral Committee and will run under the following objectives:

- Reclaim the right of women to be safe in all places at all times of the day and night.
- Foster collaboration with stakeholders to take back dangerous streets in townships and towns across the Sedibeng Region.
- Speak out against all forms of violence within and outside the home.
- Raise community awareness on gender violence.
- Develop innovative preventative strategies for addressing the high levels of gender violence in communities.

This year's 16 days of activism national campaign will be undertaken under the Theme: "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Proliferation of small arms and their role in domestic violence."

Crime Analysis

The latest crime analysis report indicates that during 2010/11, number of murders has generally decreased by 20%, however; the murder of women has increased by 5.6%. It should further be highlighted that rape and intimate partner violence are highly prevalent in South Africa. It is argued that the patriarchal nature of South African society and dominant constructions of masculinity predicated on marked hierarchy legitimating men's control of women are central to these challenges.

Assault and rape are some of the crimes that are complex in nature in terms of policing. Statistics shows that docket analysis has shown that approximately 65% of these crimes are motivated by



social conditions relating to substance abuse (drugs and alcohol) arguments, including gender inequality. It is therefore highlighted that addressing this type of violence requires social rather than visible policing and criminal justice interventions as these incidents mostly occurred behind closed doors.

According to the latest crime statistics released by Crime Research and Statistics Unit of the SAPS, contact sexual offences against children (younger than 18 years) have increased by 2.6%, with all the other social contact crimes against women and children decreasing by margins between – 29.4% and -0.8%. Among the predominantly social contact crimes committed against children, 51.9% were sexual offences, whilst only 18.7% similar offences committed against women. It is evident that common assault comes out tops as offences registered against women are worth about 46.9% of cases reported. It is further indicated that about 39.5% of sexual offences were committed against children between the ages 15 & 17.

Ends!

**Issued by the External Communications Department
Sedibeng District Municipality**

For further information:

Dan Manoeli

Acting Director: External Communications

Telephone: +27(0)16 450 3960

Fax: +27(0)16 421 3182

Mobile: +27(0)82 672 8780

Email: danm@sedibeng.gov.za

