



GAUTENG
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Outcomes of an Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) meeting on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide

2 October 2026

Good morning, members of the media, colleagues and the people of Gauteng.

Following President Cyril Ramaphosa's national address on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) on September 29, 2026, we held an urgent Intergovernmental Relations meeting today.

The meeting brought together provincial leaders, Executive Mayors, Municipal Managers and Ministers of the national government to consider the steps required to translate the President's directives into immediate, coordinated and measurable action across all spheres of government in Gauteng.

In convening the meeting, Gauteng is making it clear that we are ready to move with urgency and purpose. It marks the beginning of a focused provincial process to respond to the issues raised by the President, strengthen coordination across government and ensure that commitments are translated into action on the ground.

A key outcome will be the establishment of a single tracking and reporting mechanism through which progress can be monitored and reported on a weekly basis, from municipalities to the provincial and national spheres. This will strengthen accountability, streamline reporting and help eliminate duplication, while ensuring that we maintain a clear view of what is being done, where gaps remain and where further intervention is required.

Importantly, Gauteng is not starting from scratch. We are building on, on work that is already underway across the province and, in response to the President's call, we are accelerating and strengthening these interventions. We have an existing IGR framework that was adopted and utilised to prepare for the G20 Summit which has since been utilised to deal with water and electricity disruptions in the province.

To coordinate responses across local, provincial, and national government levels, we will make use of these existing committees which will meet weekly:

- **Intergovernmental Committee on Disaster Management:** Coordinating local government matters.
- **Intergovernmental Committee on Police:** Bringing together law enforcement resources.
- **Intergovernmental Relations Committee:** Monitoring water and energy issues.

Some of the core interventions, in line with the mandate outlined by President Ramaphosa, the committees will track and report on a weekly basis include:

1. National case-recovery operation – Gauteng response

Within 60 days we will complete a full provincial audit of all unresolved murders, attempted murders, rapes and serious sexual offences involving women and children.

The audit will cover the age of cases, forensic backlogs, identified suspects not yet arrested, and delayed investigations or prosecutions.

Within 90 days every priority or stalled case will have an individual recovery plan with clear actions, responsible officials and hard deadlines.

The MEC for Community Safety and the Provincial Commissioner will lead this work jointly with the National Prosecuting Authority, respecting prosecutorial independence.

2. Forensic backlog reduction

We will identify the Gauteng backlog, size, age, staff and equipment shortages.

Within 60 days the provincial contribution to a funded national plan will be finalised.

Priority DNA and forensic samples linked to rape and murder of women and children will be ring-fenced for urgent processing.

Clear turnaround standards will be set, and progress reported publicly every quarter.

3. Municipal women's safety audits

Every municipality in Gauteng must begin safety audits of high-risk areas within the next 7 days, working with provincial departments and the police.

Hazards to be identified include broken streetlights, overgrown spaces, abandoned buildings, unsafe transport routes and poorly secured parks.

This morning we met as part of the Gauteng Energy Response Plan and one of the resolutions of the meeting was that, in partnership with Eskom and City Power, we will install and electrify more than 140 transformers across the province. This intervention is part of the ongoing work to strengthen local electricity infrastructure, replacing failed equipment, and introducing sustainable alternative energy sources across the province.

Within 90 days of completing each audit, the most urgent hazards must either be fixed or placed on a funded implementation plan with clear deadlines.

Results and progress will be published so communities can track what has been done.

Municipalities and the province will intensify enforcement of liquor by-laws, especially against unlicensed outlets and after-hours trading.

4. Alcohol-related violence package

Gauteng will fully support the coordinated legislative and enforcement package that must go to Cabinet within 60 days. Provincial departments will align resources and enforcement efforts accordingly.

We will also intensify the ongoing work of enforcing liquor license regulations, shutting down unlicensed liquor outlets across the province.

In addition to these core interventions, the provincial government added a 5th core intervention that focuses on strengthening existing places of safety for vulnerable women in the province. This includes conducting an audit of places of safety, buildings, staffing, and funding gaps to ensure victims know where to go and how the facilities are equipped.

On resource mobilisation we agreed to do the following:

- Pool provincial, municipal and national capacity for case recovery and forensic work.
- Request additional allocations through the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement for Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Units, Sexual Offences Courts, Thuthuzela Care Centres and shelters.
- Strengthen the Inter-Ministerial Committee and Provincial GBVF structures so that quarterly public progress reports are issued on time, starting within 90 days.
- Elevate multi-disciplinary investigations where needed and increase visible policing in high-risk areas.
- Gauteng will release its first consolidated baseline report by 9 October and will publish public progress reports every quarter to ensure full transparency and accountability.

Prioritising High-Risk Police Stations

We also resolved to prioritise the provision of additional resources to the ten police stations that have recorded the highest volume of rape cases in the province.

These include: Rietgat, Alexandra, Mamelodi, Diepsloot, Ivory Park, Dobsonville, Redhill, Midrand, and Thembisa amongst others.

Provincial Support Infrastructure

Sexual Offences Courts: Strengthening support across 7 specialized sexual offences courts in the province with 144 victim-friendly rooms. We are also bringing in the 19 Medical Legal Clinics to assist in preventing the loss of forensic evidence.

In addition, we are increasing and amplifying SAPS GBV desks to deal with cases swiftly. A total of 1,022 GBV brigades will be deployed across 122 high-risk police precincts with tools of trade. We are adding 56 social workers within the Department of Social Development.

Harnessing technology and innovation

The province is also harnessing technology, such as the e-Panic Button and integrated CCTV networks, to improve emergency response times while ensuring strict data privacy for victims.

Digital platforms help residents access emergency support, report incidents, and connect with helpful services. However, technology should support, not replace, effective policing, social services, and community work. All past technical issues with the e-Panic Button have been resolved, and we encourage all residents to download the app again.

As the province with the largest population and among those carrying a significant burden of GBVF, Gauteng has a particular responsibility to lead from the front. We cannot wait for others to act. We must use every instrument available to us, work across government and with communities and partners, and move with the urgency that this crisis demands.

Collaboration with civil society

Government cannot combat this crisis alone and civil society organisations have decades of experience supporting survivors and preventing gender-based violence.

To build a unified response, the meeting has resolved to scale our existing partnerships with civil society groups that provide safe shelters, counselling, and legal aid. At the same time, we are engaging the private sector to adopt progressive workplace policies and drive public awareness campaigns.

By combining government resources with community expertise and corporate responsibility, we can build a stronger, more coordinated response, one that protects those who are most vulnerable and strengthens the resilience of our communities for generations to come.

By-law enforcement operations

As from yesterday, Thursday, 1 October 2026, all municipalities across Gauteng have commenced coordinated weekly by-law enforcement operations aimed at restoring order, ensuring compliance with municipal by-laws and addressing lawlessness in our cities, towns and communities. These operations will bring together municipalities and relevant law-enforcement agencies in a coordinated and sustained effort to deal decisively with illegal activities, non-compliance and practices that undermine the safety, cleanliness and orderly functioning of our communities.

We will intensify these operations every week to ensure that lawlessness has no place in Gauteng and that our residents can live, work and conduct their businesses in safe, orderly and well-managed communities.

A call to action for every resident

Gauteng calls on men and boys, families, schools, workplaces and faith groups to reject abuse. Every resident must refuse to commit or excuse violence, break the silence, support survivors, and teach children that violence is never an expression of love or discipline.

Where we are, we are of the strong view that working with the police and realising the resources will allow us to arrest the situation. And the upcoming sixteen days of activism campaign cannot continue to be about fighting gender-based violence and femicide, but rather 16 days of peace, support and recovery.

ENDS/

Issued by the Gauteng Provincial Government

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