

WOMEN MARCH AGAINST ABUSE

22 March 2013

Maryna van Wyk

Hundreds of women from different branches of the ANC Women's League in the province marched to Hoffman Square in Bloemfontein to launch the province's campaign against gender-based violence to mark Human Rights Day.

The national campaign will culminate on Freedom Day, April 27.

The march, which started at Paradise Hall in Botshabelo, was joined by Premier Ace Magashule, Mangaung mayor Thabo Manyoni, education MEC Tate Makgoe and economic development, tourism and environment MEC Msebenzi Zwane.

The female members of the provincial executive council, Sisi Ntombela – who is also the ANCWL chairperson – Olly Mlamleli, Sisi Mabe and Elzabe Rockman also participated.

Members of the tripartite alliance who attended included Phel Parkies from the SACP. The police's provincial commissioner, Lt-Gen Khehla Sitole, also took part in the march.

The women, dressed in their traditional green and black outfits, carried placards reading "Respect women's rights", "Zero tolerance for abuse against women and children" and "Real men condemn abuse against women and children".

Ntombela told the crowd that the situation was getting worse.

"We do not want rapists to have lawyers. They must go to jail and never be able to return to society," she said.

Magashule addressed the crowd at Hoffman Square, urging all to act against rapists.

"Rapists pretend to be good people during the day but at night they rape our mothers and sisters.

"Three girls were raped in the township in the past week," he said

[Source: www.thenewage.co.za]