



sport, arts & culture

Department:  
Sport, Arts and Culture  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**NATJOINTS PRESENTATION ON HALF-MASTING IN  
HONOUR OF THOSE WHO DEPARTED AS A RESULT OF  
THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC**

**30 OCTOBER 2020**

## 4. THE HALF-MASTING MECHANISM

The 5 day mourning will unfold as follows:

- The justification for the interlinkages as well as the twin relationship between COVID-19 and GBVF pandemics will be elevated in the speech of the President and in all media statements (electronic, print, social media and government web sites)
- The President and leadership to be requested to wear black as well in all gatherings where they will be if not at the launch site.
- White doves to be released on the day of the launch, two big Candles be lit on the day of the launch and an arch of white balloons in the shape of 16 Days / HIV & AIDS sign be placed behind each candle
- A prayer session be held to remember all those who passed on as a result of the two pandemics.
- A media statement / communique will be released that All citizens should wear attires and ornaments of mourning based on their culture, tradition and religious belief. This will be a sign of mourning the loss of our beloved ones due to COVID-19 pandemic and GBVF; demonstrating the twin threats of COVID-19 and GBVF or an affirmation of the dual pandemic facing society
- Half-masting of all national flags starting from Wednesday 25 November to Sunday 29 November 2020. All flag stations in the country to observe Half-masting from 06:00 to 18:00 for the 5 day mourning period.
- Families and organisations be encouraged to set up memorial corners where flowers, lit candles and any appropriate form of memorialization is observed to remember and honour those who are departed.
- On the last (Sunday) churches, mosques, temples, synagogues and houses of prayer should hold prayer sessions in mourning as these religious houses have buried the fallen victims of both pandemics
- 10 taxis with full wrap cover on GBVF messages and the taxi rank where the launch will take place be branded.
- Billboards being procured for 16 Days to also reflect messaging to remember victims of GBVF (See next slide)
- Leadership to reach out to women at shelters, hold meaningful engagements and give them hope.

## 4. THE HALF-MASTING MECHANISM

### The 5 day mourning will unfold as follows:

- On the morning of 25 November 2020, the raising of the flag to half-mast will signify the launch of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign.
- The raising of the flag will take place at the Union Buildings at 05:30. The raising of the flag in the Eastern Cape will also represent the event which would have taken place in Port Alfred, in the Eastern Cape.
- This will be the ceremonial link between the 16 Days Campaign, and COVID-19. The half-mast will be carried on television platforms on the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup>.
- On 24 November the Inter-Ministerial Committee on GBV will host a media launch to launch the 16 Days Campaign. At this media launch, the theme for the campaign: Women's Economic Justice for a non-violent and non-sexist South Africa.
- The media launch will also outline the activities for the 25<sup>th</sup> of November indicating the half-masting details.
- The Presidential Dialogue which will take place between 5-7pm, will observe a moment of silence as part of the 5 Days of Mourning Campaign. This will also present the opportunity to observe the remembrance campaign by having survivors tell their stories of abuse (see next slide).



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## 4. THE HALF-MASTING MECHANISM

The 5 day mourning will unfold as follows;

- On the part of participation by civil society we recommend that government and business run logos in black and white in honour of the period of mourning and to post messages under the hashtag #RememberTheirNames.
- In line with the 2020 UN Theme for 16 Days, **Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!** the Collect refers to collecting and telling of stories of abuse and survival to move abuse and GBV out of the silence and shadows out into the open. The aim is to drive home the reality of what women and children are going through, and to end the silence that allows GBVF to persist.
- The call will be for civil society to stand on the side of survivors and to break secondary victimization. So the 5 Days Mourning period will recognize those that have died as a result of GBVF, and will call on society to stand with victims and their families and friends (in seeking justice) and survivors in supporting them on their road to recovery (Pillars 3 and 4 of the NSP).

### #RememberTheirNames

**Remember our mothers, our daughters, our sisters, our colleagues who we have lost due to gender-based violence and femicide**

**365 Days of Activism for  
No Violence Against Women and Children**



# Call to action key messages

**Based on the persistence horrific nature and the scourge of GBVF in the country government is calling upon the nation to recommit to programmatic intervention to:**

- Repair the social fabric of our nation by eradicate ills and build a society where morality takes prevalence.
- Recommit to efforts of building communities grounded on positive values and re-dedicate to building a caring society in pursuit of creating, equality lasting and prosperity in the country .These values involve respect for human life and basic honesty in the way persons and officials act in communion with one another and the authorities.
- Build men and women who understand the true meaning of words such as honesty and integrity, and who have respect for the rights of others.
- Foster greater religious tolerance and cooperation for moral renewal.
- Establish a new society, where men and women will enjoy equal rights and improve the elimination of the system that exploits women to achieve economic justice
- Build a society where the ultimate goal is to create an opportunity for each person to establish a sufficient material foundation upon which to have a dignified, productive, and



# Call to action: Collective Responsibility

- **The media:** Promote positive stories and renewal, take collective responsibility and hold society to higher levels of morals, denouncing actions that go against our highest expectations of each and every citizen.
- **Communities :** Condemn any acts of GBVF and report it to the police. We must be the torchbearers and light the way to a society that is morally stronger than we currently have.
- **Decision Makers:** Create awareness about the Nature of GVBF as humanity issue and instill Empathetic, Responsible , Innovative and Accountable leadership in those responsible for making decisions.
- **Partners :**Sexual and personal morality requires intellectual honesty and respect. We are enriched by diverse cultures in South Africa.
- **Families:** Nature values, attitudes, and behaviour. Raise boy and girl child as equals . Family its an important agent in all its cultural and religious manifestations of socialisation and a major instrument in nurturing psychological behavior
- **Teachers:** Look at any signs of psychological behaviors such as bullying, teach young boys to treat girls with respect and as their equal. Teach young girls to be confident, independent and to express their views
- **Call on men and boys,** as well as whole of society to stand as partners and form action coalitions that seek to eradicate rape and sexual harassment and abuse



# THANK YOU



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