

MEDIA STATEMENT

For immediate release

01 December 2021

SALGA marks World Aids Day on the 1st December and announces series of community and sector dialogues for 16 Days of Activism on No Violence against Women and Children

The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) commemorates World AIDS Day and stands in solidarity with those infected and affected by the epidemic. Guided by the theme: “Working Together to End inequalities, AIDS, TB and COVID-19

“Get Tested. Get Vaccinated. Adhere to Treatment”, we call on the local government sphere to redouble its efforts to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS, TB, STIs and COVID-19.

The theme is aligned with the global theme which is a message to world leaders **“End Inequalities. End AIDS”**. It speaks to the colliding epidemics (HIV and TB) and the current pandemic (COVID-19) simultaneously. It emphasizes the need to test, vaccinate and adhere to treatment (be it for HIV, TB, or COVID-19 therapeutics since there’s no approved treatment for it, etc.)

This year’s theme is also informed by previous themes which were used to assess the journey of commemorating World AIDS Day over the years and speaks to the need to work as a collective in our communities in response to the HIV and TB epidemics including the COVID-19 pandemic.

The focus and approach will mainly be multisectoral service delivery for communities particularly on testing for HIV and Covid 19, vaccination and adherence to treatment. Municipalities, with the National Department of Health, the South African National AIDS Council, the Treatment Action Campaign, Men’s Sector, Traditional Leaders, Traditional Healers, and various stakeholders are embarking on these programs countrywide. Build-up programs are coordinated and rolling, culminating in the national event hosted in the Limpopo Province, Vhembe District, in Collins Chabane Local Municipality on 1 December 2021, and beyond.

HIV/AIDS, TB, STIs and COVID-19 have emerged as one of the foremost challenges for poverty alleviation and development in sub-Saharan Africa. These diseases affect countless individual lives and livelihoods, with the potential to undermine Local Governance in all aspects. Through profound impact on health and human resources, these can undermine the capacity of Municipalities to carry out their core functions of service delivery.

HIV/AIDS, TB, Sexually Transmitted Infections and now COVID-19 are a threat to the economic development of our local communities, it is therefore imperative for municipalities to play an active and proactive role in prevention and mitigation mechanisms. This can be done by establishing and resourcing Local and District AIDS Councils, working in partnership with the South African National AIDS Council to access donor funding and mobilise communities to remain vigilant.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM ON NO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

The 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence is an international campaign that commences from 25 November (International Day of No Violence against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day). Originally created by activists, it continues to be coordinated each year by the Center for Women's Global Leadership. The UN supports this civil society-led campaign through the United Nations Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women Campaign. The UNiTE campaign utilizes orange: ***"Orange the World: END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN NOW!"***, to represent a brighter future, free from violence against women and girls, as a unifying theme running through all its global activities.

The National theme for 2021 is ***"The Year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke – 16 Days of Activism – moving from awareness to accountability"***, calling on all levels of government, communities, and business to play an active role and be accountable in the fight against GBVF.

The ***"Blow the Whistle on Violence Against Women"*** campaign by SALGA, introduces 'the whistle', as an emergency tool of attracting attention and preventing violence and supporting the vulnerable. SALGA has partnered with Old Mutual, who supported the campaign by procuring 1500 whistles and pepper sprays that will be distributed especially among the most vulnerable, elderly women living alone, child-headed families mostly led by girls, persons living with disabilities, including the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI+) persons.

During the 16 days, SALGA, working with the government together with civil society and the private sector will host a series of community and sector dialogues and activities to foster a collaborative effort in dealing with GBVF.

The following hotspot areas have been identified for activities and handing over of the whistles and pepper sprays:

Areas	ACTIVITY	District / Metro	Province	DATE
TBC	TB	City of Cape Town	Western Cape	TBC
Mamelodi T/ship	Traditional Leaders' Mens' Conference HIV testing services Men's health services GBV discussions Prostate screening 04 December 2021, Mamelodi	City of Tshwane	Gauteng	04/12/2021
Johannesburg	DWYPD Round table discussions	City of Joburg	Gauteng	TBC
Durban	Disabilities consultations on NCGBFV Bill on 29 November 2021	eThekwini	KwaZulu Natal	29/11/2021
Sydenham	Ethekwini Metro is having a GBV outreach in Sydenham on 4 th of December 2021			4/12/2021
Walmer Community Hall	Stakeholder Dialogue and	Nelson Mandela Bay Metro	Eastern Cape	25/11/2025

Areas	ACTIVITY	District / Metro	Province	DATE
	launch of 16 days of activism			
Bloemspruit	Details to follow	Mangaung	Free State	09/12/2021
Promosa (Extention 2 ward 13)	Details to follow	JB Marks	North West	TBC
Stilfontein	Details to follow	Matlosana	North West	TBC
Rustenburg	Details to follows	Rustenburg	North West	3/12/2021
Colesberg	March against bail for the rapist and murderer of an elderly woman	Pixley Ka Seme DM	Northern Cape	24/11/2021
Thulamela Municipality	Community Dialogue Thulamela Prof VN Ralushai Library, Programme to start at 10:00	Vhembe LM	Limpopo	07/12/2021
Thembisile Hani LM	150 H/H identified for food parcels and other initiatives	Nkangala	Mpumalanga	10/12/2021

The immediate task of newly elected councils is to establish, strengthen, and resource the following structures: the Multi-Party Women Caucuses (MPWC), established as section 79 Council Committees; the women's forum, the youth forum; the persons living with disabilities forum, and the elderly forum. The MPWCs is composed of all female councillors and Senior Managers in a municipality. The SPU designated groups are elected from their community structures/organisations and elect their representatives to participate in the municipal programs. It is of necessity that their

activities form part of the quarterly reports that go to the council. The GBVF has reached crisis proportions, and municipalities are at the front line of intervention, support, and prevention, in coordination and cooperation with relevant sector departments. Pillar 2 of the National Strategic Plan against GBVF: **prevention and rebuilding of social cohesion**, calls on all government, civil society, and communities to rally together to prevent the scourge on GBVF and find common solutions to tackle the problem to rid our society of all the ills that result in GBVF. For Pillar Two of the National Strategic Plan against gender-based violence and femicide to be fully implemented, there is a need to investigate interventions put forward by Pillar One, **Accountability, coordination, and leadership**.

Together, let us take action to support the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign.

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