

**Speech Mrs Thamo Mzobe, Chief Executive Officer of National
Development Agency (NDA), ACT NOW Kathorus Candlelight
Tuesday, 1 December 2020.**

The National Development Agency is proud to be part of today's demonstration against Gender Based Violence and Femicide. Our partnership with Mzansi ACT Now, is part of the NDA's commitment to an enhanced response to the pandemic of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. It is only through partnerships between government, civil society and the private sector that we will be able to overcome this pandemic as a country.

South Africa is plagued by high levels of gender-based violence and inundated daily by media and police reports of the horrific and senseless murder, rape and maiming of women and children in homes and communities. This onslaught is part of a wider culture of violence and intolerance that manifests in homes, workplaces, places of worship and communities, regardless of the class, race or geographic location of perpetrators or survivors or victims.

Our partnership with Act Now for today's Kathorus Candlelight also marks the launch of the NDA's 16 Days of Activism campaign and is also hosted as the world commemorates World Aids Day. The 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children Campaign is a United Nations campaign which takes place annually from 25 November (International Day of No Violence against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day). This year's 16 Days campaign is being observed under the theme "Women's Economic Justice for a Non-Violent and Non-Sexist South Africa".

At a special joint sitting of Parliament in September 2019, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced he would have a meeting with representatives of the private sector to discuss the establishment of a Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Fund (GBVF) to increase support to survivors and other measures to ensure that programmes that support GBV in South Africa are supported by government. This was also as a result of the commitments made by government, civil society and business at the GBV Summit of 2018 which was hosted by the President.

The Department of Social Development as the lead and coordinating Department for the Victim Empowerment Programme, in 2019, requested for funds from the Criminal Assets Recovery Account (CARA) Fund for strengthening prevention of victimization and support services for victims of crime and violence. Victim Empowerment Programme is one of the key priorities of the Justice Crime Prevention and Security Cluster as reflected in the Integrated Criminal Justice System Strategy and it contributes to Outcome 3: "People in South Africa are and feel safe".

On January 2020, the NDA in partnership with the Department of Social Development and the Interim Steering Committee on GBVF issued a Request for Proposals from CSOs that implement Victim Empowerment Programmes in

response to Gender-Based Violence and Femicide targeting all nine (9) provinces. In January 2020, the NDA called for proposals from NPOs who work in the sector. The NDA received 525 applications in total of which 312 were recommended for funding nationally. Of the 312 NPOs, 75 are emerging NPOs and 237 are established. The emerging NPOs will receive R 200 000 and the established NPOs R300 000 each.

As a conduit of funds for CSOs, the NDA is looking forward to strengthening the capacity of CSOs that are rendering services to eradicate the scourge of GBV. These CSOs are a critical stakeholder as an extended arm of government in the implementation of government interventions. In order to make the CARA programme effective, we have ensured that most of the organisations funded are involved in lobbying and advocacy which will also ensure maximum awareness of the rights of women, children and LGBTQI persons in our communities

The NDA wants to call on all Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to utilise their networks in communities to escalate South Africa's response to gender-based violence and Femicide as this will make us realise "women's economic justice for a non-violent and non-sexist South Africa." CSOs continue to play an important role in assisting government to promulgate programmes that contribute towards prevention, care, support and healing of all vulnerable persons affected by gender-based violence and Femicide.