

## Mayor`s keynote address at the 16 days of activism against women and children abuse, Dr CN FET College, 07 December 2011

Programme director

Members of the Executive Committee

Councillors

Magoshi a rena

Officials from sector departments

Our committee members dealing with special programmes

Invited guests ladies and gentlemen

Today we are here to remind ourselves of the campaign to fight against the abuse suffered by women and children in our society. It is something that is happening on daily basis but not reported to the authorities to stop this evil activity. Every year in November and December government and private sector go all out to make our communities to be aware of this abuse and to encourage people to speak out.

It has been a norm that men use their muscular power to solve disputes whenever they arise at home. Women and children become victims because the physical and emotional pains are felt by them. To some men this is a sign of victory when fear is instilled in the lives of the women and children. We are living in a violent society which cannot play a positive role in the lives of the young ones. Most often children imitate the behaviour of their elders and if men beat women then young boys will grow up knowing that beating women is the right thing.

This is the time for us as government and private sector to come together and drive out this bad activity in our community. We must advice the women to come out and report any form of abuse so that those who are abusing other must be taken out of our society. It is wrong not to report men because they are the ones who are providing food in our homes. We are told by the Bible that women were made with a rib from men and as such you cannot abuse your own creation.

We are in season where families must come together and spend quality time together. It is time to shower the loved ones with gifts and other goodies. Children become happy when they are bought new clothes. In some families it will be a shame because their fathers will drink the money and beat up women when asked

what happened to the money. It will be an emotional pain for kids because they won't be able to play with their friends on Christmas day because they will be wearing old clothes. It cannot be right for men to hide their failures by inflicting pain on the people they claim to love.

We must encourage men to find ways to solve domestic disputes rather than resorting to violence. We want our boys to grow up being responsible so that they can be able to take care of their families in the future. We are going to start working with the SAPS to give us statistics of men, women and children who are in prison due to family violence activities. We want to do in order to reduce the rate of family death caused by violence. We must educate both men and women that failure to resolve any problem does not mean taking the lives of our children.

Recently we read of a story of a woman in North West province who made her 5 children drink poison and they are all dead. There is still a high level of poverty in our society and that cannot be a justified reason for any parent to kill his or her children. We must encourage women to form cooperatives that can be able to put food on the table for the families.

Let us all use our hands to feed our children and stop depending on others. Our government is having many poverty alleviation projects and we must approach departments like Social development, Agriculture etc for more information. Let us use this occasion to encourage people to report any form of abuse to the Police and make this Christmas a free domestic violence one.

Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2012

**I thank you**