

# **PRESIDENT WOMEN'S DAY SPEECH**

Amandla!!! Long live the relentless and uncompromising spirit of the women Long Live

Women's day marks an important event as we celebrate the marvelous human beings that carry and bring life to this Earth.

The State is obliged to protect the rights entrenched in Chapter 2 of our Constitution. We commend the Government for ratifying the ILO Convention 190 (C190) as well as our cabinet for signing the Sexual Offences & Domestic Violence bills and Amendments into law but in the same breath condemns the lack of implementation and application of these laws to benefit their intended recipients. It's good to have nice policies but the lack of action renders them redundant.

Hence NACTU calls for the heads of the Ministers of Police, Correctional Services and Intelligence to roll because they have let the most vulnerable in our society down. It cannot be that the Ministers are comfortable in their positions whilst the country is burning. We believe that the fish rots from the head and lack of accountability doesn't help in preventing and stopping this pandemic of Harassment and intimidation as well as Gender Based Violence. These Ministers are a liability to mankind, have declared mutiny against our society and therefore should be held accountable. The lack of application and implementation of the laws fails to deter the perpetrators who are roaming free without fear of the consequences of their brutal actions

Women are faced with multitudes of challenges and amidst this COVID-19 pandemic, another pandemic of Gender Based Violence, Harassment and Intimidation of the most vulnerable in our society has reared its ugly head. Lack of Gender Responsive Quality Public Services is also a contributing factor to Poverty, inequality, femicide, GBV, Harassment and Intimidation, etc. and women and children are at the forefront whether in rural, urban or peri-urban areas

Women are marginalised and unless we take their issues seriously, we will never be able to address the systematic issues that continue to undermine and suppress them. Unpaid care work is time consuming, emotionally and mentally taxing and undervalued

Corruption itself contributes to limiting women access to Social Protection, Food, Water, Electricity, Health, Education, Sanitation, Infrastructure. Corruption should be eliminated and therefore call on government to prioritise the implementation and application of Gender Responsive policies to ensure care and safety of women

We also call on all men and the Trade Union movement to be vocal in awareness campaigns, protest, marches, mobilisation and advocacy in prioritising women issues. We must also advocate for women leadership positions in Trade Unions

Lastly NACTU demands change from 16 Days of Activism against GBV to 16 days of Inspection regarding GBV and ensure that every second, minute, hour, day, Month and all

year round is dedicated against GBV, we cannot delegate such an important matter to a few days

With these words we wish you all a Happy Women's day and Happy Women's Month with less or no incidents of GBV, Harassment and Intimidation

**Aluta Continua!!!Malibongwe igama lamakhosikazi!!!!Wa thintha Bafazi-Wa thint  
UMBokodo**