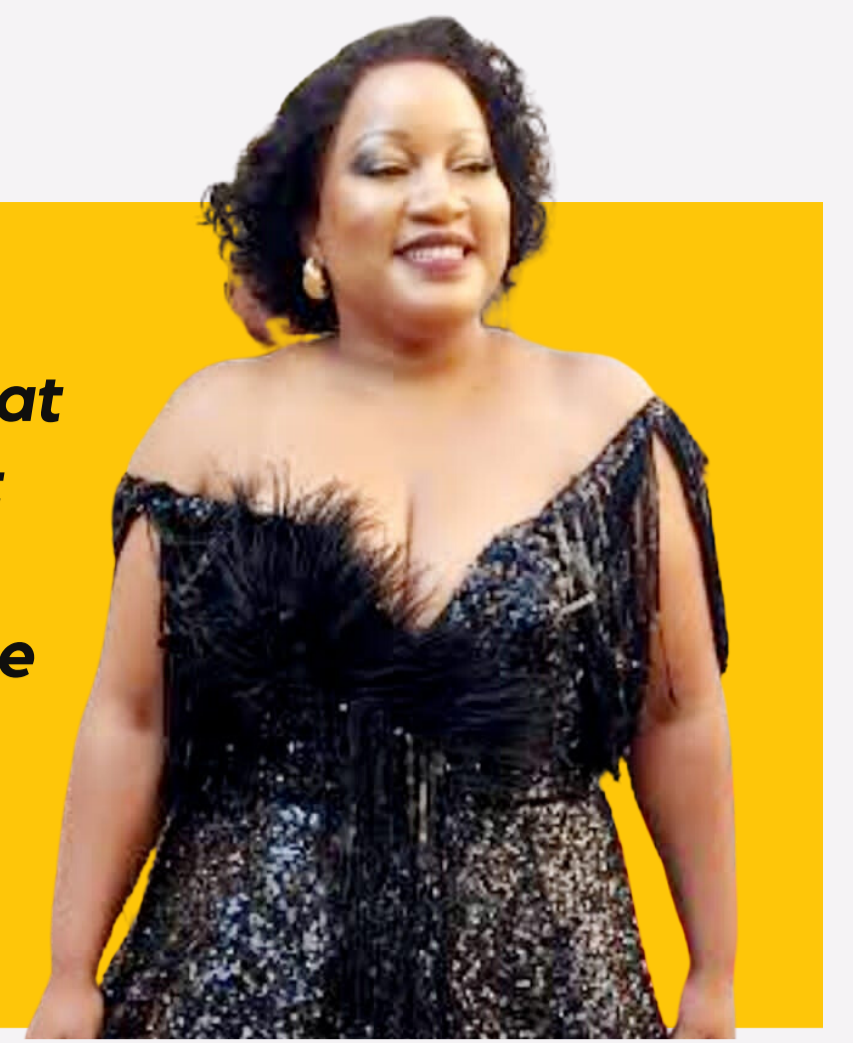




ANC PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

"We also acknowledge that violence against women and intimate femicide is also a global concern."
~ Cde Masiko



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ANC PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY DEBATE COMRADE HEINRICH GIOVANNI APRIL (07 MARCH 2023)

International Women's Day was born from the struggle for freedom championed by the international working-class movement. The observation of this day comes from the historic New York march in 1908, where women called for shorter hours, higher pay, and the opportunity to vote. This historic day laid a foundation for many struggles that would be waged worldwide, advocating for social and women's justice.

The South African women's movement has also been immersed in politics and organising akin to that seen through the early 1900s when the international women's movement was birthed.

South African women from 1913 were discontent with the apartheid pass law policies that made them invisible and inferior to men. Inspired by African Nationalist politics within the South African Natives National Congress, women confronted the oppressive regime led by heroines such as Charlotte, S. Maxeke, Mrs A. S. Gabashane, Mrs Kotsi, and Katie Louw, who, among other things, carried a 5 000-signature petition that was demanding that the rights of women be recognised and burning passes at municipal offices as an act of defiance to the system.

We send our solidarity to the women of Palestine who suffer under the apartheid government of Israel,



ANC MP: Cde Heinrich Giovanni April

which continues to oppress the Palestinians and annex their land. We pledge solidarity with all women violated and impacted by wars, as women are the most vulnerable in conflicts worldwide.

The pandemic on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide is a global phenomenon. As a nation, we have made strides through the introduction of legislation in this Parliament.

The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act Amendment Bill's prime goal is to improve the country's prevention of sex crimes, particularly of paedophilia. It also proposes to expand the ambit of the crime of incest and introduces a new offence of sexual intimidation.

The Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Bill addresses GBV&F committed against vulnerable persons and provides additional procedures to reduce secondary victimisation of vulnerable persons in court proceedings.



ANC CHIEF WHIP CDE PEMMY MAJODINA



ANC DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP CDE DORIS DLAKUDE



ANC CAUCUS CHAIR CDE SEISO MOHAI

THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AMENDMENT BILL INTRODUCES ONLINE APPLICATIONS

The new law expands the circumstances in which a complainant can give evidence through an intermediary and provides for evidence to be given through audio-visual links in proceedings other than criminal proceedings. This legislation also tightens bail and minimum sentencing provisions in the context of Gender-Based Violence.

The Domestic Violence Amendment Bill introduces online applications for a protection order against acts of domestic violence. It imposes obligations on functionaries in the Departments of Health and Social Development to provide certain services to victims of domestic violence.

These are decisive measures to strengthen the fight against GBV&F. Women must know their rights to protect themselves. Let us continue working together to create a non-sexist society where men and women enjoy equal human rights.

EXTRACT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY DEBATE COMRADE CAROL PHIRI (07 MARCH 2023)

The struggle for women's liberation is not only a national but an international struggle. Women worldwide experience discriminatory laws, norms and practices in one form or another.

Creating an equitable society requires the transformation of the global political economy, which advantages males. Gender inequality in the world remains pervasive.



ANC MP: Cde Carol Phiri

In a recent report by the World Bank, “In 86 countries, women face some form of job restriction, and 95 countries do not guarantee equal pay for equal work.”

In our continent Africa, women continue to be marginalised due to the patriarchal nature of our society, like elsewhere worldwide. Women bear the brunt of unpaid labour in their households and are deprived of the right to own land in many countries, particularly in rural areas.

Unemployment affects women more, and in South Africa, women have the most extended unemployment period.

EXTRACT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY DEBATE COMRADE CAROL PHIRI (07 MARCH 2023)

42% of children lived only with their mothers while a much smaller percentage of 4,0% lived only with their fathers. This indicates that as part of advancing women's human rights, fathers have a role to ensure that all women enjoy their freedom by taking equal responsibility in raising children.

The ANC has placed women's empowerment as a critical aspect of social transformation. Our strategic objective of creating a non-sexist South Africa is premised on creating a gender-equal society through developing policies and laws that promote women's empowerment in the economy as owners of businesses and as preferred workers.

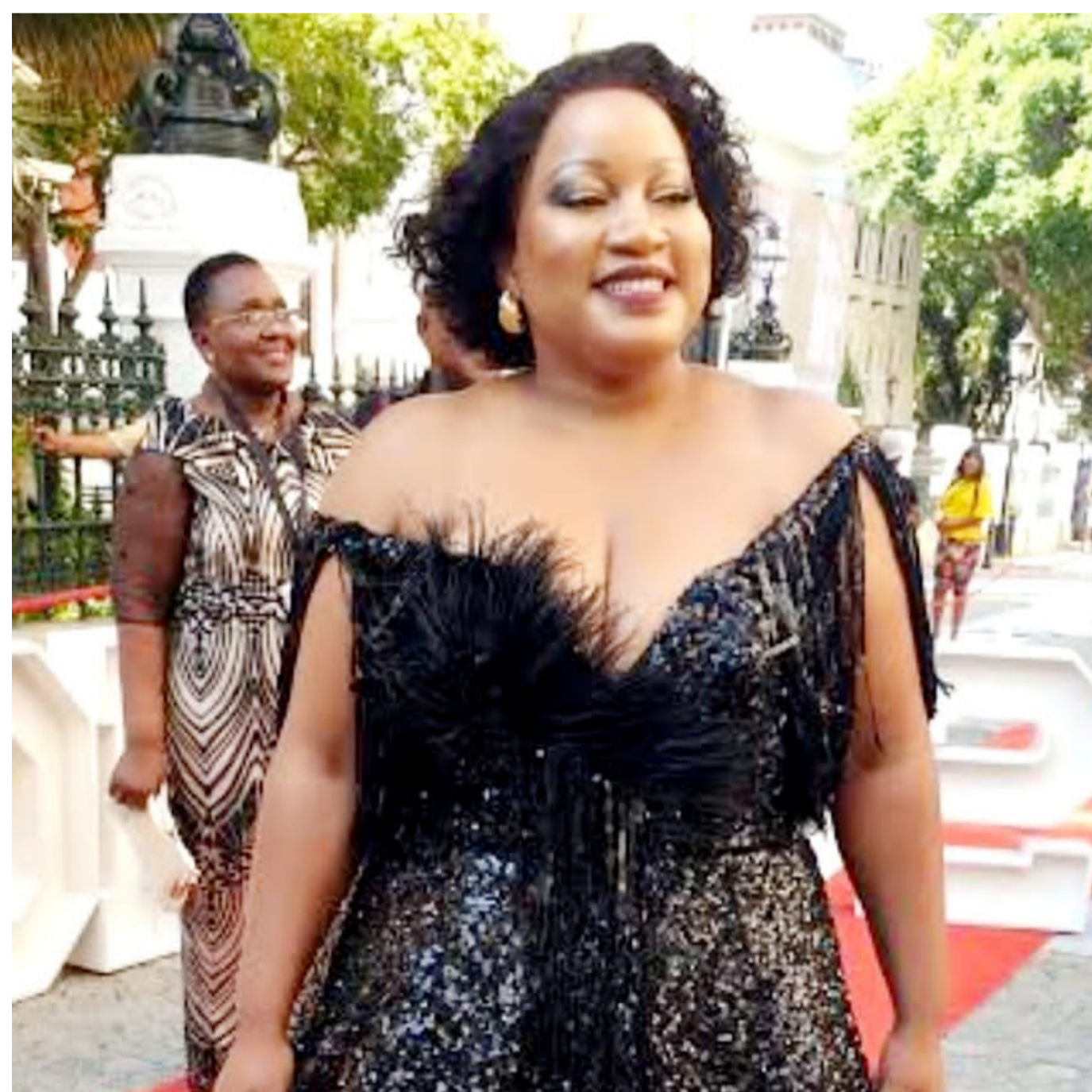
This has transformed South Africa such that it has become a norm in many of our communities that women own assets and can survive independently. Today women are doctors, lawyers, engineers, professors, scientists, pilots and various professions that continue to be dominated by men. Women today constitute the highest percentage of students and higher education graduates. This is a democratic gain of ANC policies which have opened the doors of learning.

Many African women and households rely on agriculture, yet many women are discriminated against without property rights and access to tenure in many

communities. The lack of sufficient support for women cooperatives and farmer development deprives the continent of growth in the agricultural sector, which is a significant contributor to employment creation.

We call on the government to take decisive steps to address the problem of unequal pay between men and women. The equal work for equal pay principle addresses the gender pay gap. We equally welcome the strides of our government in prioritising the provision of social housing for women, which is critical for their protection against gender-based violence and femicide prevalent amongst partners.

INTERVIEW WITH CDE FIKILE MASIKO, WHIP OF THE STUDY GROUP ON WOMEN, CHILDREN AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



ANC MP: Cde Fikile Masiko

The ANC regrettably notes with concern the persistent occurrences of gender-based violence and femicide, which has become a pandemic that should be confronted by all ANC members, civil society organisations, community-based and faith-based organisations, traditional leaders, trade unions, businesses, men and women individually and collectively.

We also acknowledge that violence against women and intimate femicide is also a global concern.

The fight against gender-based violence and femicide needs to be intensified at all costs with determination and the necessary resources required to ensure that the scourge is challenged and fought in every area of our society throughout the year.

The ANC Caucus newsletter publication team interviewed Comrade Fikile Masiko on the importance of the 16 days of Activism against Gender-based violence and Femicide campaign.

This valuable input, which carries forth the belief that activism against violence against women is a 365-day campaign, is shared in this publication.

• What is the significance of the campaign of 16 days of activism of no violence against women and children and what does it seek to achieve?

Given the scourge of gender-based violence in the country, the 16 Days Campaign forms the centre point of government's comprehensive 365 Days of Activism. During the 16 Days period, government, together with civil society and the private sector

host a series of community and sector dialogues and activities to foster a collaborative effort in dealing with GBVF.

• Why do we have to commemorate it annually?

The annual commemoration is a reminder of a continuous struggle to fight this pandemic, and it requires the involvement of everyone in our society. It requires persons to confront gender stereotypes and toxic gender norms. The fight should, however, not start and finish over the 16 days. It is an everyday struggle for everyone in our communities and a clarion call for every member to be an activist of GBVF in their homes and communities.

• What is the significance of this year's theme for you and the study group?

The theme for the 16 Days of Activism Campaign for 2022 is: "Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment to build Women's Resilience against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide: Connect, Collaborate, Contract!" The theme is of great significance to the Study Group in that it addresses the social

Interview with Cde Fikile Masiko



DM, Cde David Masondo

empowerment of women, which is fundamental to achieving and enjoying their human rights. It is imperative to invest in the socioeconomic empowerment of women to achieve their potential and advance their rights. In doing so, we can reduce household poverty, hunger and food insecurity, and the heightened inequalities they face daily.

What is the way to deal with the scourge of violence against women and children?

It is imperative to fully implement the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on gender-based violence and femicide centred around six pillars.

It seeks to strengthen the fight against Gender-based Violence at all levels by providing a strategic roadmap to addressing the scourge. The NSP is premised on the equality of all gender groupings, including the LGBTQI+ community.

What has Parliament done this year to combat Gender-based violence

President Cyril Ramaphosa signed three gender-based violence (GBV) bills into legislation in February this year. The three Bills were introduced in Parliament following a November 2018 Presidential Summit against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF). Recently Parliament hosted the

National Men's Parliament on the theme "Takuwani Riime! Institutionalising a Responsive Men's Movement." Lastly, Parliament, through various portfolio committees, has continued to play its oversight role in ensuring that government remains answerable to the people regarding its responses and actions in fighting GBVF.

