

18 August 2022

via email: presidentrsa@presidency.gov.za, malebo@presidency.gov.za,
nokukhanyaK@presidency.gov.za, olive@presidency.gov.za

His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa
President of the Republic of South Africa
Union Buildings, Government Avenue
Pretoria
0002

Dear Mr. President,

You have called for a second Summit on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) under the theme: **Accountability, Acceleration and Amplification NOW**. The Ministry of Finance's participation in the planned summit is crucial and critical in ensuring appropriate funding levels for the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on GBVF and it can only do so with a political head that fully appreciates that sexual harassment, violation and assault is not complementary, it is not humorous or unavoidable but that it is a form of violence and abuse of power; this power should not be a gift of protection to the privileged.

We cannot demand accountability from others when those charged with the responsibility of discharging their constitutional responsibilities stand accused of sexual violence and remain in office without taking accountability for their act(s) of sexual violence and abuse of power. Minister Godongwana's denials and minimization of sexual violence carry more cultural capital than the voice and the account of the abused woman in this case.

We cannot accelerate and amplify gender violence interventions and strategies to end the scourge if we are selective in our outrage based on who the alleged perpetrator of the violence is. Likewise, we cannot amplify and accelerate the involvement of the entire populace in ending the scourge of gender based violence if we do not end impunity, normalization, tolerance and minimization of the harms inflicted.

Lastly, we remind you of the first demand from the 2018 #TheTotalShutdown, in addition to a Summit, also demanded: "a commitment never to appoint any individual who has been implicated or minimizes the causes and consequences of GBVF to cabinet or to lead a state institution." We therefore await your leadership by taking action against Minister Godogwana, lest your silence and failure is construed as condoning gender-based violence.

Sincerely,



Brenda Madumise- Pajibo
Director



Onica N. Makwakwa
Director