

The Department is failing to ensure womxn and children are safe, that an environment for opportunities and empowerment is created

By Nazley Sharif MP - DA Shadow Deputy Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

Thank you, House Chair

The reduction of R10 million from the Commission of Gender Equality (CGE) is a good indicator of how important womxn are to this ANC government. Taking the budget directly away from institutions that are already underfunded and at the forefront of fighting GBVF is what the ANC seems to be good at. R27 million has been taken away from programmes in the Department that have the potential to be used to fight against the scourge of violence towards womxn and the LGBTIQ+ community, or money that could be used to make entering the economy and having access to the economy just a little bit easier.

NO! The ANC makes everything difficult.

The Department would rather spend R93.3 million on staff and administration but take two years to develop the National Strategic Plan on GBVF and also fails to effectively communicate and collaborate with stakeholders.

The mandate of the Department needs to change, to put it simply, it is just embarrassing! Minister Mashabane, as the Political principle of this Department, it falls to your office to change the mandate and the culture of the department and ensure that it moves towards directly changing the violent social fabric and the lack of opportunity we have in this country. Minister, when you speak on the effects of patriarchy, and how we must actively work to dismantle it, you conveniently fail to mention how the government you are part of, perpetuates this very same patriarchy.

Minister Mashabane and Deputy Minister Mkhize you have a direct seat at the table, you lead the Inter-Ministerial Committee, you sit at Cabinet meetings and the National Coronavirus Command Council, it is in this government and where you sit that patriarchy is alive and well. Before you address us about patriarchy again, start by acknowledging how your government has and will continue to institutionalise it.

The mandate of this department must be updated and re-looked at. The argument that the departments main focus is on advocacy, oversight, and to coordinate governments response just doesn't cut it anymore. This Department is just a mouthpiece for government and does nothing to make our lives safer and fails to ensure an environment for opportunities and empowerment. It does nothing for the womxn in this country.