



Amajuba NEWS



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September 2020

The Amajuba District Municipality's Speaker leads a Prayer to end Gender-Based Violence



The Speaker, Cllr Phumzile Mgcina, and the Portfolio Chairperson for Engineering Services, Cllr Zanele Msibi, lighting candles with the representatives of the different religious groups who took part during the District Prayer. The candle lighting ceremony was conducted in remembrance of those who have succumbed of Covid-19 and the victims of Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

Gender-based violence continue to haunt the country even after numerous attempts by government and other organisations to create awareness about it. Almost every year there are campaigns aimed at fighting the gender-based violence but cases of women abuse, in particular, are rising rapidly. But there is no giving up on the part of government in trying to end this and educating people about the ugliness of gender-based violence.

It is for the above reasons that the Speaker, Cllr Phumzile Mgcina, led a District Prayer to seek divine intervention in this fight. On the 10th September 2020 Cllr Phumzile Mgcina led a prayer session which saw different religious groups come together for one cause, to pray for an end of the gender-based violence. This prayer was coordinated in partnership with the Amajuba Inter-Faith Organisation which consists of members from various religious organisations like the Christians, Traditional Healers, Muslim, Hindu and other all others represented in the Amajuba District. The theme for this Prayer was "LET US RISE IN FAITH". All speakers on the day emphasised the need that our leaders should not give up but must at all times invite God Almighty to give them strength and ideas on how best the violence can be discouraged.

The Speaker, Cllr Phumzile Mgcina, on behalf of the leadership of the Amajuba District Municipality thanked the Inter-Faith leaders for always responding positively in the government's programmes and for always willing to land a helping hand. "We are aware that the Covid-19 pandemic has hit all of us hard. But we cannot ignore the bad impact this has had on our churches. Almost every week the church leaders are required to bury our relatives and loved ones because of Covid-19. This must be exhausting emotionally and physically to you. So, when we call you to pray with us and you respond positively like today, we feel very humbled and hopeful. We take it we all accept that the fight against gender-based violence cannot be solely left in the hands of government. We all in our different spaces have a role to play. I am grateful that many of the church leaders and traditional leaders in this district are always part of our programme. We hope you do share our messages with the people you serve. This time our plea is that we invite all our people to pray with us as we battle with the gender-based violence.", said Speaker Cllr Phumzile Mgcina.

This Prayer session was also used to remember those who succumbed to Covid-19, their families, to pray for the frontline workers and those infected by the virus. The session was concluded with the attendees making the following statement of commitment:



Dr Shabalala, the District Chairperson of the Traditional Healers Association leads the Traditional Healers who performed their ritual as part of the District's Prayer.

The session was concluded with the attendees making the following statement of commitment:

"We, the representatives of all faiths in the Amajuba District Municipality, gathered under the banner of Amajuba District Prayer on the fight against Gender Based Violence and COVID 19, deliberated and committed as:

- That we will and shall at all material times recognise and respect each other's faith and beliefs,
- That we shall pray for and against all forms of Gender Based Violence wherever they manifest,
- That we will form part of and actively participate in all processes and initiatives that are aimed at stopping the spread of COVID 19,
- We will work closely with Amajuba District Municipality in promoting the noble ideals of uprooting all social and economic ills from the society,
- That we will play a crucial role in promoting gender equality and the respect for the right of all our citizens to life,

That we shall converge, under the auspices of Amajuba District Municipality, to carry forth the Statement of Commitment".