



Open Letter to the Minister of Finance

Mr Tito Mboweni
Minister of Finance
Republic of South Africa

By Email:

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Dear Minister Mboweni,

We write to you on behalf of Shukumisa, a coalition of over 80 organisations across South Africa working against sexual violence, advocating for legislation and policies that reflect the best interests of adult and child survivors of sexual violence, since 2008.

We call upon you to ensure that adequate commitment is made in the 2019 Budget Vote to address the provision of services for survivors of gender-based violence and sexual violence in particular. The President in his 2019 State of the National Address has acknowledged that '[v]iolence against women and children has reached epidemic proportions' and that '[e]nding gender-based violence is an urgent national priority...'

We commend the President's commitments made during the GBV Summit in 2018 and subsequently in his State of the Nation Address to fully funding Thuthuzela Care Centres, and to a fully funded National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence. We call on you to ensure that these commitments are reflected in the 2019 Budget.

The Sexual Offences and Related Matters Act 32 of 2007 mandates government departments to ensure the provision of services to rape survivors and survivors of other sexual offences. It is our submission that this should be addressed as a national priority. The 2019 Budget must provide a clear and comprehensive resource commitment to address government's obligations relating to sexual violence. Areas for critical intervention include:

a) Sexual Offences Courts

The current 74 Sexual Offences Courts must be appropriately resourced in accordance with the Sexual Offences Court Model and in compliance with the legislative framework for Sexual Offences Courts. Budget must be provided for the continued roll out of the Sexual Offences Courts in the next 5 years.

b) Thuthuzela Care Centres

Provision must be made in the Budget to adequately resource existing, and to expand the footprint of Thuthuzela Care and other post-rape service centres to all parts of the country. It is a further imperative that the 2019 Budget provides for the contracting of NPO partners to ensure 24 hours a day / 7 days a week/ 365 days a year service provision at these centres.

c) The National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence.

To fully resource the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence.

d) Civil Society Organisations Providing Services

To ensure the development and resourcing of a rational standardised model of funding for civil society organisations providing services to survivors of sexual violence and gender based violence.

e) FCS Units

To allocate resources to strengthen and to increase the number of Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Units in SAPS, to ensure service provision in all parts of our country.

Domestic Violence Services

The Budget must make adequate provision to resource state institutions and civil society organisations working with survivors of domestic violence (regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity), including the provision of both shelter and long-term housing, substantive programmes to address women's unemployment and economic dependence, counselling and health care, and programmes for children who have also been victimised and/or witnessed domestic violence.

Prioritisation of Funding for Gender Based Violence and Sexual Violence Services

The Budget must prioritise resourcing of state institutions and civil society organisations tasked with addressing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The Department of Finance must effect mandatory gendered budget formatting, which indicates what proportion of funding is ring-fenced for:

- i) women's empowerment (broadly); and
- ii) prevention and support services for SGBV survivors (specifically).

All government departments should be required to present gender disaggregated plans, budgets and performance reports to Parliament and the public to ensure greater accountability.

Yours sincerely,
The Shukumisa Coalition

About Shukumisa

Shukumisa is made up of NGOs, community-based organisations, research institutions and legal services. Our members work with adults, children, people with disabilities, sex workers and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender and intersex community and other key populations. Our mission is to ensure that South Africa takes the problem of sexual violence seriously, as evidenced by well crafted, well implemented legislation derived from broad-based public participation processes.

For more information about the Shukumisa Coalition, please refer to www.shukumisa.org.za or contact the coordinator on 082 546 4261 or coordinator@shukumisa.org.za.