



MEDIA RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEPARTMENT TO RAISE AWARENESS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE PROVINCE

The Department of Police, Roads and Transport in the Free State will embark on a massive Campaign to raise awareness on Domestic violence in the Province as part of 16 Days of Activism for no violence against Women and children. The aim of the Campaign is to educate Communities about Domestic violence and to inform them about their legal rights in instances of Domestic violence.

Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior in a relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over intimate partner or close relative. It is a serious crime against society and has unacceptable incidence in South Africa. The victims of Domestic violence are always the most vulnerable members of our society namely, Women and Children.

Domestic Violence Act, 1998 (Act no 116 of 1998) classify Domestic violence into five sections which are:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Financial abuse and
- child abuse

In addition to the above, conduct between people who are in such a relationship which, according to the Act, also qualify as Domestic violence includes:

- Intimidation
- Harassment
- Stalking
- Damaging of Property and
- Entry into the residence of the victim without consent, where the parties do not share the same residence.

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The number of incidents of Domestic violence in which Women, Children and the elderly are the victims appear to be continually on the increase in the Free State.

The table below from South African Police Services illustrates the reported cases in the Free State from financial year 2007/2008 to 2011/2012

CRIME CATEGORY	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Total Sexual Crime	4 396	4 523	4 581	4 838	4 927
Assault with intent	16 833	15 884	15 745	15 439	15 079
Common Assault	19 885	19 605	19 016	17 934	18 090

Domestic violence awareness Campaign which starts on the 15th November 2012 at 17:00 at Ntswanatsatsi community hall in Cornelia, will also be rolled out to the following five towns in the Province during the Month of November 2012:

PLACE	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Tweespruit	19/11/2012	16:00	Tweespruit Community Hall
Warden	21/11/2012	11:00	Zenzeleni Community Hall
Winburg	22/11/2012	15:00	Makeleketla Community Hall
Clocolan	28/11/2012	16:00	Open Space at Extension six next to the Municipality office
Orangeville	29/11/2012	17:00	Community Hall

-ENDS-

ISSUED BY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

FREE STATE DEPARTMENT OF POLICE, ROADS AND TRANSPORT

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