

A Mass Prayer to end Gender-Based-Violence

The community of Petanenge pioneered by the Greater Tzaneen Municipality took it upon themselves to render a prayer session to fight Gender Based Violence and Femicide.

According to GTM Cllr Maggy Makwala, the purpose of the prayer session was to “Pray for GBVF, it is a challenge that gives us sleepless nights, women and children are raped and killed.”

She continued to say “abuse happens in various ways, it can be sexual, physical, emotional and financial”.

“Women are faced with abuse in their marriages but are told to stay by family

members, some are forced to stay because they rely on their abusers for financial support”, Said Rirhandzu Shiluvana from the Dead of Social Development.

Shiluvana spoke about various emotional ways of abuse such as gaslighting, name calling, ignoring and scapegoating. She explained the terms in detail and pleaded with women to be aware and speak out. She referred to “GBVF as violence of human rights”.

The most painful part about GBVF according to statistics is that it is most likely to happen at home, the place we all run to for safety, children are raped at home, women are killed at home, said acting GTM Mayor Cllr Connie Ramothwala.

The event was supported by Pastors of different churches including world renowned Pastor Dr Elijah Maswanganyi, Vision FM, South African Police Services, Department of Social Development, Department of Justice, and the Nkuna Traditional Authority.