

Services

Social Development offices have Social Workers, Social Auxiliary Workers and Community Development Practitioners who promote the Victim empowerment programme by providing the following services to victims of crime:

- Counselling.
- Information.
- If the victim fear for her/his life, they will be referred to shelters.
- Link with families and relatives.
- Present the reports as required by court on your behalf.
- Mediate in divorce, separation and family violence.
- Capacitate organisations working with victims to improve services.
- Conduct home visits to survivors of violence.
- Link victims with economic empowerment initiatives in their areas.
- Assist victims who want to access protection orders.

CONTACT DETAILS

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VISION

A caring, humane and developed society.

MISSION

To provide equitable, integrated and quality sustainable social development services in partnership with all stakeholders to eradicate poverty, protect vulnerable groups in communities of Mpumalanga.



Social Development

Department:
Social Development
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

VICTIM EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

Be an everyday Hero for
victim empowerment
"Bhekanani"



VICTIM EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

What is victim empowerment?

Victim empowerment is an approach to facilitate access to a range of services for all people who have individually or collectively suffered harm, trauma and or material loss through violence, crime, natural disaster, human accident and/or through socio-economic conditions.

Who is a victim?

A victim is any person who has suffered harm, including physical or mental injury; emotional suffering; economic loss or substantial impairment of his or her fundamental rights, through acts or omissions that are in violation of the criminal law.

Types of abuse victims may experience

- Physical abuse: beatings, assault with weapons including guns.
- Sexual abuse: rape, sexual harassment, use of objects, touching, exposure to pornography by force, forced to sell sex, including sex by force by a husband/wife.
- Economic abuse: refusal to provide maintenance, excessive control over money, gambling with family money, hiding assets including investments.
- Harassment: telephone calls monitoring, being followed by people to intimidate you, phone calls that have no one but laughter or treats or heavy breathing on the receiving end.
- Psychological and emotional abuse: dehumanizing words (useless, stupid), deprived right to work, isolated from friends and family, staying under guard.

SERVICES TO VICTIMS

All victims of abuse have the following rights

- The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for your dignity and privacy;
- The right to be offered information;
- The right to receive information;
- The right to protection;
- The right to assistance;
- The right to compensation; and
- The right to restitution.

FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

Shelters

Victims of domestic violence and other gender based crimes are accommodated for a maximum of 6 months. Some come with their children. They are not for children only; victims must be above 18 years of age. They provide physical care, life skills, counseling, liaising with schools and ECD Centres for the children to go to school, with business for the placement of some survivor for jobs, with Local government for houses for the families to be released to, extended families and communities for the reintegration of victims to society. They also work with offenders and perpetrators outside the facilities on life skills to change behavior. In the province they are as follows:

Facility

Louisville shelter
Leseding shelter
Badplaas shelter
Tirisano shelter
Middelburg shelter
Grace shelter
Grip shelter

A CARING, HUMANE AND DEVELOPED SOCIETY

Victim Support Centres

They are community based offices and are easily accessible for victims of crime. They sometimes provide overnight stay in case of an emergency and the client is then taken to shelter the following day once she has been provided with support and care. They are operated by volunteers. Due to lack of proper sites and funding, some operate within the yards of SAPS, but the process of assisting them to move out has started.

Facility	Location
Masisukumeni Women Crises Centre	Nkomazi in Tonga
Vuwiselo Victim Support Centre	Greenvalley, Arconhoek
Calcuta Victim Support Centre	Calcuta Police Station
Mhala Victim Support Centre	Mhala Police Station

It should be noted that the terms used to refer to some of the facilities differ from Province to Province. Some refer to the Centres as Half way house or one stop service centres. However, our Province can take care of the needs of victims at the centres and shelters as indicated. There is a drive to raise awareness in communities to create more of the Centres so that victims of crime can access them easily with grant funding from various sources. The Department cannot develop centres that are not driven by communities. There should be a need for the community and the Department will help them register and access funding where resources are available.