



STEVE TSHWETE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

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10 December 2014

Media release

STLM leaves an indelible impression to women and children on the last day of 16 Days of Activism campaign

The final day of 16 Days of Activism for No Violence towards Women and Children 2014 is an auspicious occasion this year as Executive Mayor Mike Masina of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, in partnership with Anglo American officially hand over four Park Homes to the Non-profit organisation, Victims Support Centre.

“STLM is committed to supporting the 16 Days of Activism by actively contributing towards the support and rehabilitation of victims of violence and abuse. Our Special Programmes Unit identified the need of the Victims Support Centre for more accommodation for the increasing number of abused women and children, and approached Anglo American for sponsorship for additional bedrooms for the facility.”

Masina explained that this year's theme: Count me in – Together moving a non-violent South Africa forward is very apt for the municipality as it plays an active role in community upliftment. It has not only partnered with Anglo American to place more bedroom facilities on the site of the Victims Support Centre, but has allocated nine RDP houses for former clients of the centre who desperately need permanent homes.

“It is a big step for STLM in supporting victims of violence and contributing towards a non-violent South Africa. Providing RDP homes is our active support and I also want to encourage everyone to become contributors, by reporting abuse and helping victims to go forward and live in a non-violent society.”

The municipality's Special Programmes Unit plays an oversight role in supporting the Department of Social Development's programmes for women and children, HIV & AIDS, persons with disabilities and senior citizens.

The donated municipal property on a long lease to the Victims Support Centre consists of three bedrooms (for three families), a multipurpose room for counselling and meetings, an office, kitchen and bathroom facilities. As building extensions are not permitted by the municipality, Anglo American was

approached to donate the four fully equipped Park Homes for an additional four families including child headed and orphans. These homes have already been erected in the grounds of the property.

Masina said the municipality decided to step in and provide RDP houses for nine families that were victims of violence after discovering that they had nowhere to live after leaving the centre, as they were not able to return to their former homes for fear of continued abuse.

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Yours sincerely



MUNICIPAL MANAGER