

PRESS STATEMENT: NBI Condemns Ekurhuleni Femicides, Calls for Accelerated Action and Accountability on GBVF

For immediate release

17 September 2026

Johannesburg - The [National Business Initiative \(NBI\)](#) is deeply saddened and outraged by the recent killing of nine women in Ekurhuleni, Gauteng. These horrific acts are not isolated incidents. They are a devastating reminder that Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) remains one of South Africa's most urgent and persistent human rights crises.

When violence against women escalates to femicide, it represents more than individual tragedy. It signals a profound failure of society to protect its most vulnerable citizens. Thirty years after the birth of our democracy, South Africa cannot accept a reality where women continue to live under the threat of violence and perpetual fear simply because of their gender. We urge all of society to stand together against this scourge that is eroding our very humanity.

GBVF continues to undermine social cohesion, destroy families and communities, and erode the foundations of an inclusive, equitable and economically prosperous South Africa. It is not only a social justice issue; it is a national development crisis that demands a united and uncompromising response.

As an organisation committed to advancing transformation and inclusive growth, the NBI has consistently maintained that business has both a responsibility and a powerful role to play in preventing and responding to GBVF. Over the past five years, we have partnered with business leaders and organisations across sectors to drive meaningful action to confront GBVF in all its forms.

Yet the recent events in Ekurhuleni serve as a sobering reminder that progress remains too slow and far too many women are still paying with their lives. Good intentions, while necessary, are insufficient. Awareness without action is inadequate. Commitments without accountability will not end this crisis.

Despite the declaration of GBVF as a national disaster and the establishment of structures such as the National Council on GBVF and the National Strategic Plan on GBVF, significant barriers remain in translating commitments into effective prevention, protection and support for women. Government, business, labour, civil society and communities must now strengthen their resolve and intensify collaboration if we are to achieve lasting change.

The NBI therefore renews its call for accelerated, evidence-based action and stronger partnerships across society. We remain committed to mobilising resources, strengthening workplace interventions, supporting prevention and response services, and fostering collaboration among employers, law enforcement agencies, community organisations and policymakers. Prevention efforts must be matched by accessible support systems, effective justice mechanisms and visible accountability for perpetrators.

The call amplified through the 2019 Total Shutdown movement remains as urgent today as it was then: South Africa must invest more decisively, coordinate more effectively, and act more boldly to end GBVF. This is not a challenge for government alone. It is a responsibility that belongs to all of us.

As we reflect on the values that inspired the founding of the NBI, we reaffirm our commitment to the vision of a South Africa free from violence, discrimination and fear. The lives lost in Ekurhuleni demand more than our condolences. They demand action. The NBI will continue working with partners across society to build a South Africa where every woman and girl can live in safety, dignity and freedom.

ENDS

For further enquiries, please contact:

Siphokuhle Mkancu, National Business Initiative (NBI) via SiphokuhleM@nbi.org.za