



GOLD FIELDS

Note from Tumelo Nkisi

19 May 2017

South Deep Men say NO to Violence Against Women and Children

Dear Colleagues

South Africa has one of the highest frequencies of domestic violence in the world. Every day, women are murdered, physically and sexually assaulted, threatened and humiliated by their partners, in their work places and in their own homes. Organisations estimate that one out of every six women in South Africa is regularly assaulted by her partner. In at least 46 per cent of cases, the men involved also abuse the children living with their women. Although there might be cases where men also are subjected to abuse from women, there is large evidence that women are subjected to this violence significantly more than men are. This violence is in most cases carried through by men that are well known to these women and children. They are either partners, family members or family friends.

The recent murder of the 22-year-old Karabo Mokoena, invoked conflicting emotions from all parties throughout the country. Her boyfriend who allegedly murdered and burnt her remains beyond recognition is in police custody. This incident shocked the whole country and angry women lashed out at men in general. Name-calling ensued with the popular hashtag **#MenAreTrash**, trending in all social networks. This saw most men taking to the same social networks to defend themselves condemning what happened and fighting back against this generalisation. The incident has not been the only one recently, a few incidents were reported with one being that of a three-year-old Chelsea Pieters who was allegedly raped, murdered and buried in a shallow grave by a 40-year-old man in Cape Town.

Organisations, civil society organisations, academia, businesses, trade unions, media as well as all South Africans have spoken out against these recent violent crimes. South Deep has a big workforce which includes women, and we take a firm stand and condemn these violent acts and any form of violence against women and children. Women are the pillars of our society, their strength is so vivid not only in our homes, but in our organisations. We see it when they protect and support their families and we pledge to offer them the same protection and support even at South Deep. Seeing the violence against them, as if they have no worth in our society, is shocking and as South Deep men, we say NO to these actions.

We believe in our women, we believe in their strength to support and help us grow our Mine into a renowned giant. We salute and thank them for the role they play to build this operation into a better one. We acknowledge their selfless contribution to the growth of our society and we stand firm to say, we hate what is happening in South Africa, we support them during this trying time and we say NO to violence against them and our young daughters. We pass our condolences to the families of the recent victims of these evil acts.

At South Deep, we say NO to violence against women and children #SouthDeepMenAreNotTrash.



Safety



Responsibility



Honesty



Respect



Innovation



Delivery

