

# **Safe haven** **for abused** **unveiled!**

**By KGOMOTSO MEDUPE**

PUBLIC Works Minister Patricia de Lille yesterday officially opened a new centre for women and kids affected by gender-based violence.

The centre, in Salvokop, Tshwane, previously only catered for abused kids but has since been expanded to also serve battered women because of the heightened rate of violence in the area.

De Lille said: "Today, we are demonstrating to the citizens of South Africa that the government is serious about tackling gender-based violence and providing safe spaces for abused women and children."

She said South Africans should hang their heads in shame because of the culture of gender-based violence.

"It's a scourge and it's despicable how our women, our mothers, sisters and children are not only being harmed but also being brutally killed by men who should be loving them. Our women and children are under attack and South Africa is bleeding," she said.

Also at the opening were Social Development Minister Lindiwe Zulu, Deputy Minister for Women Hlengiwe Mkhize and Salvokop councillor Fortunate Mampuru.