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BCM hands over houses to mark 16 Days of Activism campaign

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Buffalo City Metro launched its 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign by handing over keys to 22 houses on Tuesday. The campaign runs from November 25 until December 10.

The families, all from Kwevelerha, who received the keys have been identified as in dire need.

One of the recipients was Nontolopitsi Bacwana, 76, who lives with her son and two grandchildren.

They had been living in a shack before she received the keys to their new home.

Another recipient was Thandiwe Mtikitiki, 36, who depends on a social grant and had been staying in a temporary shelter with her two orphaned siblings.

Nokuthula Lingani, another beneficiary, said she was grateful and excited about her house.

"It seemed like a false dream; it was only after building material was delivered that I started to believe it to be true," she said.

She lived with her four children and two grandchildren in a leaking shack. "I am truly grateful for receiving the house."

Public works, infrastructure and human settlements MEC Siphokazi Lusithi is on record as having said: "The people who are receiving these houses are elderly women- and child-headed households, and those who are most vulnerable when it comes to abuse."

"It is a significant and profound moment for the government to demonstrate its efforts in protecting our young people

and women."

The Kwevelerha 54 Project falls within the metro's plan to complete 1,250 houses by December.

The handover of the keys of the 22 houses is one of a number of initiatives lined up for the 16 Days of Activism campaign.

With the recent increase in crimes against women and children, such initiatives help to bring down statistics and lead to a decrease in the number of murders and attempted murders of women.

Announcing the second-quarter crime statistics for the 2024/25 financial year this week, police minister Senzo Mchunu said there had been a rise of 8.6% in women's murders compared with the previous year, and an increase of 3.5% in attempted murders.

Eastern Cape premier Oscar Mabuyane will lead the provin-

cial launch of the 16 Days of Activism campaign on Thursday in the Joe Gqabi district municipality.

On Wednesday police commissioner Lt-Gen Nomthetheli Mene launched the 16 Days of Activism campaign in Zwelitsha.

The theme of this year's campaign is to confront "challenges that encourage gender inequality and abuse of women and children".

The campaign seeks to empower women, engage men and boys in prevention efforts, promote behavioural change and create long-term solutions.

President Cyril Ramaphosa has identified gender-based violence (GBV) as a "silent pandemic" which erodes the country.

Parliament has emphasised that men need to participate in the fight against GBV.