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PRESS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CREATING A SAFER ONLINE ENVIRONMENT FOR WOMEN IN SPORT – FPB SEMINAR ON ONLINE HATE AND CYBER ABUSE

**26 August 2022, Centurion.** The impact of hate speech cuts across – from human rights protection and prevention of atrocity and crimes to sustaining peace and achieving gender equality and supporting children, the vulnerable and the youth. In commemoration of the 2022 Women’s Month, the Film and Publication Board (FPB) has aligned its programme to the national theme Women's Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment: Building Back Better for Women's Improved Resilience.

An Online Nation study by the Office of Communications (OFCOM) of the United Kingdom (UK) revealed that while women are avid users of social media platforms, spending more than a quarter of their waking hours online – around half-an-hour each day more than men (4hrs 11min vs. 3hrs 46min), for many of them, life online is not always a positive experience as they have to continually face discriminatory, hateful and trolling content, and feel less able to have a voice and share opinions online.

As part of its expanded mandate and further aligning and supporting the Department of Communication and Digital Technologies (DCDT) and government in general to fight the scourge of gender-based violence. As part of its Online Hate and Cyber Abuse Prohibited Content Programme FPB will be hosting a hybrid seminar to raise awareness and curb gender-based violence online with focus on online hate and cyber abuse directed at women in sport.

The following issues will be discussed:

- The level of online misogyny and hate in the women’s game.
- How it impacts players’ mental health.
- What can be done to protect women in sport.
- What social media platforms are doing to keep their platforms safer for women in sport.
- What can be done to shield players from online abuse.
- What are the regulatory gaps in South Africa.

The programme will feature international speakers and a panel of prominent South African sports women.

ENDS

**MEDIA INVITATION – Please RSVP by Monday 29 August 10:00 on the below link**

[Seminar on Online Hate & Cyber Abuse RSVP \(office.com\)](#)

**FPB Theme:** Creating a safer online environment for South African women in sport.

**Date:** 30 August 2022

**Time:** 09:00 – 16:00

**Venue:** Fire and Ice, Protea Hotel

Summit Place Precinct, 221 Garsfontein Road, Menlyn, Pretoria

25°47'11.0"S 28°16'19.2"E

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**Notes to the editor**

The objective of the Act of 1996 is to regulate the creation, production, possession and distribution of films, games and certain publications, and more recently certain online content. This is done to provide consumer advice to enable adults to make informed viewing, reading, and gaming choices for themselves and children in their care; to protect children from exposure to disturbing and harmful material and from premature exposure to adult experiences, and to make the use of children in, and the exposure of children to pornography, punishable.

Paramount to the mandate of the FPB is the protection of children. Protecting children under the Act is a proportional balancing of the rights afforded in the South African Constitution against the right of the child. Children have the right to be protected from physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, or moral harm and to be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse, or degradation.

It further ensures that children's best interest is of paramount importance in every matter concerning a child.