

DPM, Aphane commended

DEPUTY Prime Minister (DPM) Thulisile Dladla is one of the women who have been hailed for their contribution towards mentoring Emaswati women.

One of the speakers at the event was Ziyanda Mavimbela, a student at the Southern Africa Nazarene University (SANU), stated that although the Eswatini Constitution provides for equality before the law and non-discrimination on several protected grounds, discrimination against women persisted.

She, however, commended the DPM for representing women well in her leadership role. Meanwhile, Nosipho Gwebu-Storer, who is the founder of Goshen, a safe house and shelter for women and children, recognised other women, including Doo Aphane, a distinguished lawyer and gender and human rights specialist, for their contribution in the fight for women's rights. She said such women had made it easy for her to also contribute towards the course.

Explaining how the Goshen safe house was built, Storer said she once had a friend who was in an abusive



Vijayalakshmi Ram Prasad delivering her speech.

relationship but could not leave because she had nowhere to go. The friend ended up losing her life at the hands of her loved one.

"Goshen is the place where women can go. They do not have to die because they have nowhere to go," asserted Storer. Other speakers included Peggy Robins Bide, Thandile Nxumalo, Dr Irma Acosta Allan, and Tandzile Gama, who all agreed that women, especially those in rural areas, should be empowered and not left behind. To achieve this, women were encouraged to unite and support each other.