

ANCWL notes positives, laments rise in sexual, violent crimes

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OBAKENG MAJE

THE ANCWL in North West welcomed positives reported in the 2016-17 provincial crime statistics.

Community safety and transport management MEC and police management in the province released the statistics in Mahikeng recently.

ANCWL provincial secretary, Bridgette Mogakwe said the province had experienced a reduction in some serious crimes.

However, Mogakwe further said the ANCWL was concerned after the province recorded a sharp rise in violent and sexual offence crimes during the 2016-17 financial year.

"We are concerned after the province recorded a sharp rise in violent and sexual offence crimes.

However, we are adamant that our SAPS will win a fight against violent and sexual offence crimes.

As ANCWL, we support a fight against this scourge.

"This is a societal matter which needs

to be carefully addressed. Our government cannot win this battle alone. All perpetrators must face the full might of the law.

The ANCWL in North West also calls upon all men to join the league in condemning acts of violence against women and children. No man is immune to patriarchal attitudes and there is a need to unite beyond our gender base to defeat entrenched patriarchy and male chauvinism in the society," she said.

Mogakwe further said the ANCWL in North West urged the judiciary system to be harsh on all perpetrators who committed violence against women and children.

She said the league is preparing itself to roll out awareness campaign during 16 days of activism against women and children abuse.

"We call on all other stakeholders to take part in this initiative.

The ANCWL in the province will work together with social development department to reach out to the people.

"We will visit all regions across the



STRONG COMMITMENT: MEC Dr Mpho Mochhabane.

province and disseminate necessary information. So, we call on our members, supporters and society in general

to stand together in the fight against any form of gender oppression," Mogakwe said.

"Women rights are human rights and we also urge all men to refrain from abuse of women and children. The league will continue to encourage supporting all victims and encouraging them to speak-out.

"The ANCWL encourages victims to use all available avenues in reporting violence and abuse.

We support a national strategic plan on gender-based violence (GBV) initiative too," she said.

Mogakwe said that the GBV programme focuses on better service delivery for victims of violence.

She said it also addressed the critical primary prevention and the roll-out of prevention programmes that addressed harmful gender norms and masculinity and equitable relationships among men and women alike.

"Moreover, it provided a coordinated response by the government, civil society and the private sector and how to hold each of the stakeholders

accountable," she said.

Community safety and transport management MEC Dr Mpho Mochhabane said: "We have experienced increase in violent and sexual offence crimes. However, the South African Police Service has the responsibility to provide policing services and ensure the safety in accordance with Outcome three of the Government Programme of Action.

"In fulfilling that mandate, it is necessary that we constantly provide our different stakeholders and communities at large with a broad scenario of the crime situation in the province.

"Even though we have recorded a sharp rise in violent and sexual offence crimes during the 2016-17 financial year, we will use the statistics as early warning to strengthen crime prevention operations and various other strategies meant to ensure that our people feel safe."

Mochhabane said that sexual offences came third with 162 more cases reported in the 2016-17 report.

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Avoid blockage of T-K Corridor

PROTESTS and road blockages along the Trans-Kalahari Corridor (TKC) must be avoided, North West Community Safety and Transport Management MEC Mpho Motlhabane said on Wednesday. "Any delay on this corridor by protests or any form of unrest contributes to delay on the economy of South Africa, Botswana and Namibia. We need to facilitate the movement of goods and persons on the TKC by simplifying the requirements and controls that govern the movement of goods and persons with the view to reducing transportation costs. The TKC is a highway corridor that provides a direct route from Walvis Bay and Windhoek in central Namibia, through Botswana, to Johannesburg and Pretoria. - ANA

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