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Department:  
Community Safety & Transport Management  
North West Provincial Government  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## DIRECTORATE: MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

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### Media Statement

Wednesday 15 June 2016

#### Youth must stay away from drugs and substance abuse June 16 – says MEC Dr Motlhabane

The Bokone Bophirima Community Safety and Transport Management MEC Dr Mpho Motlhabane appeals to the young people of the province to stay away from alcohol and drugs and emulate the Class of '76.

June 1976 was an epoch making moment in the youth of 76 in the country. They spoke in one voice against the inhuman system, Bantu education and were advocating for equality, and quality education. Their struggle was quite significant as they were consciously aware that education was the only weapon that will open the doors for them. The inferior education offered to a black child was not in any way going to make them become engineers, doctors, successful business people but to remain trapped in shackles of poverty.

Dr Motlhabane said the ANC led government has taken a conscious decision after more than hundred years of apartheid rule to declare June 16 a holiday where South Africans must commemorate this day. "Many black people died and others disappeared till today their whereabouts is not known. It is therefore befitting that this day should be treated as memorabilia of the struggle by the youth of 1976 and not an Independence Day or Festival."

"During this day we must all remember and understand that it was a "Bloody Day." This day should be treated with the necessary honour, respect it deserves and commemorated in a dignified manner, not by having parties, braaivleis and indulging in alcohol," he said.

The departmental MEC said today young people have a mountain of challenges that they need to deal with in their daily lives, however, a very solid foundation have been laid for them and the doors of learning have been opened, the future is in their hands.

"We have recently witness the **#feesmustfall campaign** led by young people in different institution of higher learning which government embraces and working very hard to attend.



**"Together moving Bokone Bophirima forward"**



Our future leaders are now ravaged by drugs which are available at every corner of the community even at schools. Young people are committing all sorts of brutality and crime after taking them, some become addicted and others die because of overdose," said Dr Motlhabane, who made a clarion call to all young people of this province to champion and partner with the Department to fight all the ills committed by young people and come with initiatives and proposals that will eradicate the drugs that are killing them.

"We have already established a Provincial Youth Road Safety Structure that is partnering with the Department educate and deal with the high number of young people who perish on our roads due to speeding, texting while driving and drunk and driving. Let us all be responsible citizens at our homes and on our road.

Young people need to understand the importance of this day because heroes and heroines sacrificed their lives for us to be where we are today," pleaded Dr Motlhabane.

In honour of our fallen heroes and heroines, we must all say **#beingsafeiscool**.

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