

Keynote address by Community Safety and Transport Management MEC Dr M. N. Motlhabane on Drugs and Bullying at schools; 10 June 2016.

Program Director

School Headmaster

SGB Chairperson and SGB Members

Teachers

Parents

Learner

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning,

Re kopana jaana gompieno matsatsinyana pele ga letsatsi legolo la basha la June 16, Youth Day. Letsatsi le e sale le beetswe thoko ke Puso ya rona e etelelsweng pele ke Mokgatlho wa African National Congress go keteka le go gopola bagaka ba basha ba maloba.

Monongwaga e tla be e le dingwaga di le some-amane (40 years) tse di fitileng fa kgwedi e no ya Seetebosigo e tlhola malatsi a le some le borataro (16), naga ya rona e ile ya aparelwa ke lefifi fa re ne re latlhegelwa ke matshelo a basha ba le bantsi, ba ka nako eo, ba ne ba le mo dingwageng tsa lona.

Seabe sa phiri e le fela gore ba ne ikitaya sehuba jaaka digatlhamela masisi, mme ba ema kgatlhanong le puso ya tlhalele. Ba ne ba lwela ditshwanelo tsa gore ba bone thuto e matshwanedi le go ema kgatlhanong le go rutiwa ka lolome lwa Afrikaanse. Ba na ba ba ema ka maoto ba batla go rutiwa science, Mathematics, Accounting, Economics, jalo jalo.

Program Director we are commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Youth Day and the Youth Month in the next five days. We need to give a befitting tribute to our young heroes and heroines who were at the forefront of the liberation struggle.

Some of the youth who fought sustained severe injuries and others lost their lives. For us to be where we are today it's because of their sacrifice. Who can ever forget the likes of:

- [Tsietsi Mashinini](#) (deceased)
- [Khotso Seatlholo](#) (deceased)
- [Murphy Morobe](#) - (Head of Communications in the office of the President)

- [Seth Mazibuko](#)
- [Hector Pieterse](#) (deceased)
- Mbuyisa Makhubu (whereabouts unknown)
- [Hastings Ndlovu](#) (deceased)
- Antoinette Sithole (Hector Pieterse's sister)
- [Mamphela Ramphele](#) - former SASO member (COSAS precursor)
- [Joe Phaahla](#) - former President of AZASO
- Aaron Motswaledi SANSCO Secretary-General (SASCO precursor)
- [Solomon Mahlangu](#) (hanged)
- [Mosima "Tokyo" Sexwale](#) (former Human Settlements Minister)

The list is too long to mention and we all know how they sacrificed their lives for us to get a better education.

The late Tata Madiba Mandela once said and I quote: "Young people must take it upon themselves to ensure that they receive the highest education possible so that they can represent us well in the future as future leaders."

Nelson Mandela has always believed in the youth as the rock upon which the future is built. He has always touted education as a key instrument for liberation.

Program Director, I and you are better placed to set a direct example to our young people to follow and emulate. We must demonstrate to the youth of today that education is important. We must tell the youth about where we come from as a country and also tell them why we are receiving this better education today. We come from far as a country and we need to protect this freedom and protect ourselves from drugs and bullying which seem to be taking control of our learners and schools in our townships today.

Drugs are destroying our communities out there at an accelerated speed and rate. As we speak today, most of children have dropped out of school and universities because of drugs. As a society and the school community we need to face this demon head on and be unafraid to deal with it once and for all.

The late former President Nelson Mandela again once said; "For too long too many people considered the drug problem as a remote one affecting someone else or occurring somewhere else. The reality, as we all know, is that this problem affects all our communities and in particular the youth. If we really want to do something about this dreadful monster that threatens the future of our youth, we will have to act now, act decisively, act unapologetically, for the sake of our youth, now not later.

To do this we need to stand together, work together and act tough against this monster without fear nor favour. We should never underplay or undermine the problem of drugs. We should never underestimate the dangers of the drug. We should never underscore the high

price that we pay by down-playing the effects of drugs in many countries, including our own. Drugs pose a serious threat not only to our moral standing but also to intellectual capacity and potential we as a nation and other countries possess. It is a serious threat to the health and well-being of our people. “

Program Director, re tshwanelwa ke go e ma ka dinao re tobane le tiriso botlhaswa ya diritibatsi e ga jaana mo dikolong tsa rona e tsamaisanang le mokgwa o wa go kgerisana (bullying) ga bana ba rona.

Bullying goes beyond teasing, it is done with the intent to hurt another, cause harm to another's body, knock one's ego and confidence down, to intimidate others, or damage another person's properties. This aggressive behaviour can be physical, such as when one kid pushes another or hits them, or steps on their shoes, toes, strips their clothes, take their monies, lunch boxes or even forces another to do things they don't want to do. It can be verbal, emotional, physical, mental or financial. It is a serious issue that can shatter a teen's school performance, reduce one's confidence and temper with one's well-being.

Even though kids have been teasing each other for centuries but the problem of bullying is that it goes to the extent of pushing teenagers to start experimenting with alcohol, drugs and other illegal substances as a way to self-medicate and cope with the situation they find themselves in. It can socially isolate teens during a time when connection with their peers is especially important. Bullied learners often feel the loneliness or rejection, the sad part is that this can lead to the development of alcoholism or drug addiction problem. Worst is that other teenagers end up joining gangs as a way of getting protection from being bullied.

Being the target of bullying is a serious problem for many of today's teenagers. The fact remains that, no parent wants his/her child to suffer day in and day out in the hands of someone who takes pleasure in hurting others. Bullies are psychopaths who derive joy in hurting others, in seeing others cry, these are sick children that must never be tolerated.

A School is supposed to be a safe haven for children and children should never fear walking alone or with friend in the empty school halls. No kids must be scared of playing on the school playground because someone is hell-bent on making their lives miserable. Even still, when kids go home or to the shops around the township, they should never fear for themselves or seek to be protected or guarded.

Unfortunately with the rise of drugs prevalence and availability as well as drug abuse in our communities, more and more kids find themselves being drug mules and drug addicts.

Ladies and gentlemen, a learner that is going through bullying cannot begin to heal emotionally until he or she feels safe. Therefore it is up to us as the society to see how best we eliminate this kind of behaviour in our schools so that we make our children feel safe.

Let us protect them from joining gangsters for their safety, let us protect them from using drugs as a way to ease their emotional pain of loneliness or rejection.

It is up to us to ensure that drug dealers do not have any space left to operate in our schools, in our community, province nor country at large. No matter what position they occupy on our communities, no matter how much power they possess, no matter what cars they drive, no matter how much money they may have, all drug dealers must be suffocated and smoked out of our communities.

Ladies and gentlemen, the success on the fight against bullying and drugs on our schools and communities depends on our cooperation. We need to join hands and assist government in dealing with the scourge of drugs, bullying and crime in our communities.

We can do it,

we can stop this,

we can master our own destiny,

we are the youth,

we have the will, and where there's a will there's what..... power to succeed

In conclusion Program Director, let me take this opportunity to wish our future leaders the best on their mid-year examinations and remind them that they are our greatest asset and the rock upon which our future is built on.

We continue to say South Africa is alive possibilities, it has the great possibilities actually. The future looks good for our youth, in actual fact, the bright future is beckoning on all of us and on our youth in particular. We continue to learn that there is no short-cut to making South Africa the country of our dreams, the envisaged rainbow nation, African pride.

This however requires hard work and dedication. It requires refocusing you, the youth of today, away from drugs and violent behaviour. Teachers, no doubt continues to do their job of eradicating illiteracy, of providing knowledge and skills to the youth.

Yours as learners and the school community is to refuse to be drug peddlers, refuse to be addicted to drugs, refuse to be forced to abuse alcohol, refuse to bully my fellow class

mates, refuse to regard myself as superior than others as well as refuse being controlled by gangs and our schools being taken over by hooligans.

We must say no;

No to drugs.....

No to violence.....

No to bullying.....

No to those who take advantage of us.....

No to being made a Ben 10.....

No to reliance on sugar daddies and mummies.....

No to being used by so called blessers and blessing ceremonies.....

No to teenage pregnancies.....

We must say to hell with their moneys of gifts

Ladies and gentlemen join me to say: **#drugsandbullyingmustfall**

I thank you.