



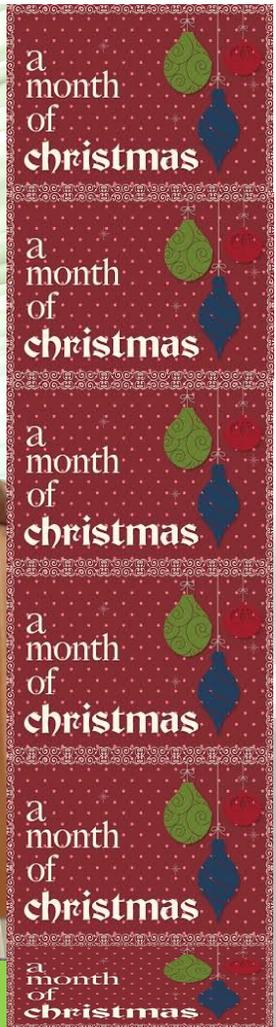
# DSD NEWS

DSD Online Newsletter

“Increasing our Footprint”

December 2017

## ISIBINDI TO CHANGE LIVES FOREVER



Head of Department for Social Development, Daphne Ramokgopa addressing The Isibindi Child Care Workers.

By Amukelani Mabasa

The Department of Social Development hosted Isibindi Indaba event where children and youth from different districts of the province enjoyed themselves and performed different artistic activities. The event was recently held at The Ranch Hotel outside Polokwane.

Head of Department (HOD) for Social Development, Daphne Ramokgopa said that the department’s challenge on Isibindi project, is that the project didn’t reach some of the municipalities in the province.

“Isibindi model was initiated to address the impact of HIV/ AIDS on children and youth. The focus is more on the children that are

vulnerable, orphans and abused ones. Child and Youth Care workers go out to the communities to mobilise the children in need of help in communities. They have a safe park where they have programmes to engage the children and also visit the families to understand what are the problems and challenges of those families then refer them to social-workers, nurses, police and community structures.

This project started in 2013, our target was to train 835 Children Care Workers in the province, and today we trained 734, meaning 101 still need to be trained. Annually they are looking after 12000 children in those 54 sites. The care workers get a

stipend and the implementing agency also give them funds for the project to be able to buy the equipment for the safe park and to buy food for the children.” Said Ramokgopa.

“The project is ending in March 2018, as it was a Five year project, now to continue with this model that benefits many lives in our province we are on our process of turning this project into a programme, so that it can change lives and assist children and youth forever. Our plan as the department, is to replace all Drop in Centres that are not functional into Isibindi Centres”, she added.



“ It is my right to know my status: Prevention is my responsibility”



PHOTO STORY

Isibindi Indaba 2017

“Isibindi My Hope My Destiny”

To everyone who is a parent or guardian

Please do not forget to give extra care and focus on your children during this festive season holidays. During this time mostly children enjoy outdoor life including night parties which sometimes might find themselves in dangerous places

This is the time where most of the children are engaging in drugs and substance abuse which lead to them having unprotected sexual activities before time.

If your child is going to a party:

Contact the parents of the party organisers.

Talk to your children about your expectations and give advise.

Do not give your children large amounts of cash.

Make it clear that they cannot leave the party and go to another without getting your permission.

You (or a trusted parent) should pick them up at the agreed time and place but they should also know that they can phone you at any stage if they need to leave.

Sleepovers are a no-no, unless you have reason to trust the host family completely. Check last minute sleepover plans very thoroughly with the host parents.

Be awake when your children return home, or have them wake you. Talk to them for a while.





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