

ADDRESS BY THE MEC FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, MRS. H.J MASHAMBA, AT THE EVENT OF THE PROVINCIAL YOUTH CAMP, SCHOLEMANSDAL, MAKHADO MUNICIPALITY.

8th November 2016

Programme Director;

The Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality, Cllr. Florence Radzilani;

The Mayor of Makhado Local Municipality, Cllr. Sinyosi Shonisani;

Councillors here present;

The Head of Department for Social Development, Ms. Daphne Ramokgopa;

Management and staff of the Department;

Our guests of honour – the Youth of Limpopo;

**Ladies and gentlemen;
All protocol observed.**

The beautiful young people of Limpopo, I bid you a fond good morning! What a feeling to be young and energetic, knowing that a world of opportunities await you. We know that at this age, you still have so many things you still want to achieve. However, you still have so much to learn and still have so many mistakes to make! One of the things you need to remember though, is to learn from your mistakes and not to repeat them.

One of the misconceptions you are likely to have in your journey ahead, is the belief that everything will come your way by just sitting and waiting, because the world and your country owes you something. Indeed, it is the other way around.

You owe it to your country to get up on your feet; finish your education; explore your entrepreneurial spirit and form a united force with your fellow young people. This united force should be one of a caring spirit. Caring for the environment; caring for the vulnerable in your community and obeying the laws of this country. These are but a few ways in which to create a caring.

Youth of Limpopo;

There will obviously be some obstacles on your journey. The way in which you overcome them, will prove that you have become responsible adults. You no doubt have many issues you grapple with as a peer group and you need to communicate these to Government and to society at large.

However, nobody has made a solid, responsible and intellectual argument by burning, looting and breaking down infrastructure and resources.

This destructive behaviour is counter-effective in bringing your point across and in achieving your ultimate goals. There are many ways in which to voice your concerns and to make people listen. The challenge put to you, is to find those powerful ways of persuasion that does not include anger and senseless violence.

Programme Director;

Government is fully aware that our total population consists largely of people below the age of 35 years. Of this number, 42% are young people between the ages of 14 and 35 years. This

translates into South Africa being a “young” nation.

We have been successful in developing integrated and comprehensive legislation and policies aimed at protecting and promoting the rights and development of young people. However, the marginalisation of youth persists. We see this in the high level of unemployment; poverty; family and community disintegration and exposure to crime and violence.

The Department therefore deem it important that the youth is exposed to life skills; entrepreneurship skills and other empowering training that will help them overcome these obstacles.

Young people of Limpopo;

Use the Youth Camp this week to the fullest. We want you to reach your potential, become self-sufficient and blossom into patriotic, proud and responsible citizens.

In closure, allow me to once again implore you to take a stand, as the younger generation, against the evils of substance abuse and violence against women and children and other vulnerable citizens.

At a very early age you need to start respecting your bodies as well as those of others. Please make informed and responsible decisions when it comes to your love life and partners. We all know the dangers of promiscuity and not taking precaution because HIV/AIDS is not a myth.

I now wish the youth of Limpopo a very enjoyable,
fruitful and significant Youth Camp!

Let us appreciate the efforts made here and give it
our best!

I thank you!

Ke a leboga!

Ndo livhuwa!

Ndzi khensile!