

Chommy programme to assist children make positive decisions

Social Development Deputy Minister Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu along with Free State MEC of Social Development Motshidise Kolozi in partnership with USAID will today launch ChommyY- a social and behavioural change programme, in Ficksburg, Free State.

In a statement on Friday, the department said the launch forms part of the Child Protection Week campaign which is commemorated under the theme: "Let us Protect Children during COVID-19 and Beyond". Observed under the theme; "Invest in my Future...Protect me Today", ChommyY aims to generate knowledge, develop skills, and empower young people to make informed choices and contribute

to reducing the high prevalence of HIV infections, substance abuse and prevention of teenage pregnancy. The Child Protection Week (CPW) campaign is commemorated in the country annually to raise awareness of the rights of children as articulated in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and Children's Act (Act No. 38 of 2005). "ChommyY in Setsoto Local Municipality is being launched in the context of the Department's You Only Live Once (YOLO) programme which was launched in 2015 to educate young people between the ages of 15 and 24 years about HIV/Aids, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy and being agents of social change. YOLO was established as part of

the Department's Comprehensive Strategy on HIV and Aids," the department said. According to Statistics South Africa's 2018 HIV Prevalence Report, HIV prevalence among the youth aged 15 – 24 declined over time from 6.7% in 2002 to 5.5% in 2018. "Setsoto Local Municipality borders the Kingdom of Lesotho resulting in high numbers of undocumented children. South Africa as signatory to different international conventions, including the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child, and the African Charter on the Rights and welfare of the Child, is obligated to accord every child who lives within the borders of the country to receive all basic services including healthcare,

education, food and shelter," the department said. ChommyY, a colloquial term for "friend" seeks to build a positive friendship among children of between 10 and 14 years and to encourage young boys and girls to motivate one another to minimise risky behaviour and social ills, including, bullying. The programme forms part of a basket of Social Behavioural Change (SBC) programmes offered by the Department of Social Development. Children from Setsoto Local Municipality will form part of the launch and participate in indigenous games, share their social experiences and solutions and interact with the programme's mascot Bokamoso.

–SAnews.gov.za

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<p>OPTION B-B-3</p> <p>MONTHLY : R150 / JOINING FEE R150.00 6 MONTHLY TRIAL</p> <p>BENEFITS Hearse, Family Car, Coffin, Tent 40 Chairs, 2x Tables, 2x Ivories, 1x Toilet Grave Fee (430.00) only</p> <p>GROCERIES & VEGETABLES 1x Bag Potatoes, 1x Bag Pumpkin, 1x Bag Carrots 1x Box Tomatoes, 1x Bag Onions, 1x Bag Cabbage 1x Beefroot</p>	<p>OPTION B-B-4</p> <p>MONTHLY : R100 / JOINING FEE R150.00 6 MONTHLY TRIAL</p> <p>BENEFITS Hearse, Family Car, Coffin, Tent 40 Chairs, 2x Tables, 1X Tent, 1x Toilet Grave Fee (430.00) only</p>

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Minister Zulu closes Child Protection Week

Social Development Minister Lindiwe Zulu has closed Child Protection Week calling for communities to be more vigilant for possible perpetrators at an event at the Manzini Community Hall in Mpumalanga. The annual Child Protection Week campaign, which was launched on 28 May 2023 in Hout Bay, Cape Town, seeks to mobilise all sectors and communities towards embracing the holistic development, care, and protection of children under the five-year theme: "Let us Protect Children during COVID-19 and Beyond".

Speaking to the children gathered at the event, the Minister said she was deeply concerned at the recent cases of abuse and crimes against children in the country. She said that in Mpumalanga, the areas of KaNyamazane, Matsulu, KaBokweni, Mnganduzweni, Chochocho, Nkomazi and Bushbuckridge have been identified by police as hotspot areas for child killings after numerous children went missing and were later found murdered.

Minister Zulu told the children to be aware of possible perpetrators in their communities.

"When we talk about abuse, rape and violence we talk about any perpetrator that might be in your schools, communities, streets and homes. Beware of these kinds of people and never allow them to touch you where they are not supposed to. "Today we are closing the campaign but we do not stop

the work, the campaign to protect children continues for 365 days.

"The brutal killing of children cannot be a normal thing. If you notice anything wrong with your peers, do not laugh at them. It is important that you as children protect each other. The protection of children must not be the responsibility of adults only, you must also protect each other when you walk together," the Minister said. She thanked the department and its partners for their contribution towards making the Child Protection Week campaign a success.

She said the Social Development Department will be launching its own TV channel, which will communicate the department's services and get information to the people without it being distorted. This year, the department aimed to raise awareness about its community-based prevention and early intervention programme RISIHA. As the name, which is XiTsonga meaning Resilience, suggests it is aimed at moving orphaned and vulnerable children from vulnerability to resilience.

To date, the programme has reached 181 569 orphaned and vulnerable children across the country through the provision of a basket of child protection services by 6 052 Child and Youth Care Workers across the country. Eight hundred and sixteen Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) are implementing the program and 26 of them are in the Western Cape Province. –SAnews.gov.za

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