We Must Institutionalise Our Fight against Social Ills

The KZN Department of Education in collaboration with sister government departments in the province of KwaZulu-Natal held a Two-Days Social Ills Conference at Open Air School in Durban recently. The purpose of the Conference was to reduce incidents of Social ills through prevention, advocacy, education, review procedures, processes and protocols of communication with all stakeholders in the province and to create a safe environment for our children to grow and develop in.

Amongst delegates that attended this historic event were Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation the Hon MEC Ntombikayise Sibhidla-Saphetha, & Department of Social Development Hon Weziwe Thusi.

In his 2012 State of the Province address, the Honorable Premier emphasized the negative impact that substance abuse, teenage pregnancy and the spread of HIV and Aids is having on the young people of South Africa. The risky behavior of the youth is retarding the progress and economic growth of South Africa. It is also destabilizing the communities in which these youth live, affecting the quality of life and affecting teaching and learning within schools. The conference of
this magnitude is a clear indication that all stakeholders and government department are responding to the Premiers call to fight social ills in the province.

“We need to institutionalize our fight against these ills, we cannot depend on one conference and think that we can reverse these trends” said the MEC, Mr Mchunu.

“There has been a debate on HIV/AIDS testing, whether it should be allowed in schools. The testing will be done under certain conditions, for instance it must be done by a competent authority approved by Department of Health. The Department of Education will then regulate on how it should be done, for instance testing cannot be done unless a parent and SGB’s has given the authority. Secondly testing can not be done inside the school premises, because once a learner enter the school there is teaching and learning only”. Said the MEC for KZN Education Mr ES Mchunu.

The views expressed by MEC Mchunu were supported with a huge round of applause. Consolidated inputs made by commissions will be presented by the Chairperson of the Social Protection Community & Human Cluster MEC ES Mchunu at a cabinet meeting.

Issued by the Directorate: Communication and Publication

01 February 2012