



A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO ALL SCHOOL PRINCIPALS FROM THE MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION, MRS ANGIE MOTSHEKGA MP

Dear School Principal

STOP RAPE CAMPAIGN AMONG 10, 2 MILLION LEARNERS: FRIDAY 01st MARCH 2013

In the last few weeks our country has been forced to recognise that rape and gender based violence have reached pandemic proportions. The horrific rape of the young teenager in Bredasdorp and the continued violence against our children cannot be left unchecked. As an Education Department we bear a responsibility to protect our children and ensure their safety while in our care. We acknowledge that we need the support of all stakeholders and the general public in turning the tide against gender based violence in this country. Hence, the collective rage in the country has to be turned into tangible action.

It is within this context that the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and LEAD SA have announced a major initiative to raise rape awareness and educate the 10, 2-million learners in South African schools. The partnership will contribute to heightening awareness in schools about rape and gender based violence.

In his reply to the State of the Nation address in the National Assembly, President Jacob Zuma commended the Department of Basic Education for “looking at inculcating values of nationhood at an early age, and promoting rights and responsibilities among children. In line with the impetus to promote fundamental human rights, we thus request that on the 01st March 2013 at 08h00, special assemblies be held in all our schools to take a stand against rape and violence. We are requesting you to notify all schools to take part in highlight the scourge of rape and gender-based violence.

The Assembly on the 1st of March 2013 should be preceded by the singing of the National Anthem. Principals, educators, learners or activists should address the assemblies for 15 minutes about rape and sexual crimes. The focus will be on education, awareness raising and more importantly on what to do.

The “Stop Rape Campaign” resonates with the theme for the month of March which is Human Rights month. We also need to teach our youth about their rights as contained in the Bill of Rights and expressed in the Bill of Responsibilities (BOR). We want to encourage our learners to report any form of abuse to the authorities.



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



We acknowledge and applaud the good work of many civil society organisations that are raising awareness about violence against women and children. A Pledge based on the Bill of Responsibilities, which includes a statement on violence and rape, will be circulated to educators and learners who are urged to adopt it at their assemblies. The school assemblies should be concluded by 8.30 and the programme for school assemblies is attached. This initiative is critical not only to highlight rape but also to educate our children and teachers.

The pledge will be posted on www.leadsa.co.za together with information about rape and materials to guide educators on how to cope with this sensitive topic. The pledge will be available in all 11 official languages. For further information kindly contact Mr. Balosang Sanki Lerefolo on 012 357 3765, 0828368703 or lerefolo.s@dbe.gov.za

The DBE website, www.education.gov.za will also have all the information including a list of resources for schools in supporting the campaign.

Let us all unite and fight rape with one voice.

Kind Regards,



Mrs Angie Motshekga, MP
Minister of Basic Education

Date:

Stop Rape Campaign: 01 March Programme

07h50	Assembly is Convened
08h00	30 Seconds Moment of Silence
08h01	National Anthem
08h10	What is Rape? By NGO's / The cost of Rape by Ex- Offender
08h20	Reading of the Pledge
08h30	Classes Resumes

The Proposed Pledge

I pledge:

- To uphold the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa
- To abide by the laws of the country
- To respect the rights of others irrespective of age, race, sex or sexual orientation
- Not to rape or commit any form of sexual harassment, abuse or violence
- To report any form of wrongdoing to authorities
- To honour the responsibilities that come with these rights and to be a good citizen.

Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika