

ADDRESS BY MEC FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, SAFETY AND LIAISON, HON HELEN SAULS - AUGUST ON THE OCCASION OF THE METHODIST YOUNG WOMEN'S PRAYER AND SERVICE UNION (MYWP & SU) 04 MAY 2013

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS - NALEDI PANDOR,

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMISSION ON GENDER EQUALITY – MS. THOKO MPUMLWANA

CEO OF THE FILM AND PUBLICATION BOARD - MS YOLISWA MAKHASI

PRESIDING BISHOP - M. LOSABA

OUR RENOWNED ARTISTS AND ENTERTAINERS

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS YOUNG WOMEN FROM ACROSS THE SADEC REGION

HONOURED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

It is a privilege and an honour for me as a Member of the Executive Council responsible for Human Settlements, Safety and Liaison as well as the Chairperson of the Eastern Cape Aids Council to deliver a message of support on this auspicious occasion of the 4TH Young Women's Manyano Triennial hosted by the Grahamstown District under the leadership of Bishop Losaba. Let me specially welcome young women from the SADEC region to the shores of the Eastern Cape, Nelson Mandela Metro in particular. Please enjoy the hospitality of our Province and utilize this opportunity to contribute meaningfully to this important programme and the spiritual growth of young woman. This gathering is taking place at a point in time where the safety of women and children is a focal point in various

discussion fora's. It takes place when violence perpetuated against women and children is becoming more violent and gruesome in nature. With reference, the gruesome murder of Anine Booysen a young woman who could have been part of a gathering of this magnitude but who was robbed of her life by ruthless murderers who have no regard for a life and the laws of our country. This gathering takes place in a year, when as the Province we are celebrating 15 years since the Community Policing Forums came into existence.

On Safety

We have seen an increase in the perpetuated against elderly women, women who cannot even defend themselves. In Tholeni, near Butterworth –where female headed families were targeted, women were raped and slayed. This, ladies and gentlemen is an indication that we have a sick society, there is an abnormal behavior which has swamped our society.

Delegates, despite key advances in the struggle for gender equality, young women today still remains trapped in poverty and in many areas of this Province having to take responsibility to raise their own families. In the rural areas there remains an onslaught on young school going girls who are often left to the mercy of prowling predators exploiting their vulnerability due to lack of resources, financial and otherwise.

As the Department of Safety we submit to this gathering, that It is a responsibility bestowed on you, the Young Women's Manyano to invoke, not only divinity as prescribed in the scriptures of the Holy Bible to deal with this satanic behaviour which is destroying our society, but to also position the Methodist Church at the Centre of the fight against crime. I have read

about the fearless women that established this movement (Sarah, Dorcas and Sophia) – and I urge you to emerge out of this triennial with the same vigor aimed at restoring the dignity of women in society for it is the Bible that states “ if the Lord is with us who can be against us”?. No one-

The department of Safety in the Eastern Cape, Bishop Losaba, is currently looking at various interventions to address these challenges including the vigorous strengthening of oversight over the implementation of the Anti-Rape Strategy by the SAPS with reference to Prevention, Response, and Support during the coming year. Awareness on Human Trafficking in the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipal area and other parts of the Eastern Cape which has largely affected young women is also an important focus area of our Programmes.

However, we are aware of the fact that we can never, as a government, achieve our goal of safer communities without the support of other sectors, chief amongst them being the religious sector, therefore in line with our theme as the department for the year 2013/14 “*Maximum Community Participation towards Safer Communities*” we invited all South Africans to partner with us in the fight against crime.

We are looking forward to a partnership with young women in the religious sector to intensify advocacy against women and Child abuse.

We make a clarion call to the religious sector in general, the Methodist Church in particular to play an active and more meaningful role in the establishment of Street/Village Committees and Community Policing Forums.

On Human Settlements

Following the pronouncement made by the Hon. President in his state of the Nation address 2012/13, the Department of Human Settlements has started the roll out of the Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme (FLISP). FLISP is aimed at providing home ownership to South African Citizens earning between R3501- R15000 per month. FLISP will go a long way in assisting those individuals whose income is regarded too low for Mortgage finance but too high to qualify for the government “free basic house”. –

On HIV / AIDS

Lastly Programme director, as the Chairperson of ECAC , I urge delegates gathered here today to continue pursuing the objective of ensuring that HIV-AIDS becomes every body’s business in this province and elsewhere. The battle of the HIV/ AIDS is not a boardroom challenge, but is a battle of reality on the ground- where the Young Women’s Manyano has a critical role to play involvement in various community building initiatives guided by your spiritual commitment.

It is in this context that we must pursue vigorously the fight against this new enemy with the same spirit and vigour which led to the dismantling of Apartheid by those that went before us , amongst them features the name

of a young woman from the Red Location, Nomvume Mnyazi who was the first victim from this area who was shot and killed in June 1976.

I call on the YWM to include the HIV and AIDS message in all your campaigns and by so doing honour the memory of that young woman Nomvume Mnyazi together with those of all other young women who perished in the journey to a free non-racial, non-sexist society.

The freedoms we see as a result of tears, sweat and blood. Let us advance and charge towards the firerring line. Let us not lower our guards at any given moment as the sinful one, Satan is always prevalent and a force amongst us.

Thank you very much for allowing me to stand in front of you and may you continue to do the good evangelical spiritual work and may the good Lord Almighty guide you in all your endeavours towards the attainment of spiritual divinity.

I thank you.