

**Address by the Mayor of Thabazimbi, Cllr Patricia Mosito, on
International Day of Substance and Drugs abuse campaign-
Regorogile Community hall at 10:00.**

26 June 2012

Programme director

Fellow councilor(s)

Members of Bokamoso Victim Empowerment Centre

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Dumelang, Good morning.

It gives me great pleasure to be part of this important and exciting gathering in which we condemn the usage of drugs and substance by our children and community at large.

The United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 42/112 of 7 December 1987 declared 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The purpose of commemorating this day is to create greater public awareness and coordinated national and global effort to combat the scourge of substance abuse, which has become a global problem.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We meet here today during Youth Month, in remembrance and celebration of the invaluable contributions that youth have played, and continue to play in our country. Equally, we use this month to intensify our efforts and concentrate our energy on factors confronting our youth today.

The magnitude of the drug problem in our country, particularly among young people is a cause for major concern and poses serious challenges for the future of our country. Justifiably so, if you consider that children, as young as 10 years old, are experimenting with alcohol and drugs. Increasingly, the schools have become the primary place for drug sales as an increasing number of young people across the country become drug users.

Parents and community leaders, South Africa is facing a national crisis, which demand a community and national response.

For this reason, I call on parents, educators, community leaders, and ordinary members of Thabazimbi community to join us in the war against alcohol and substance abuse.

Parents and community leaders, I want to make a special call to you all today to participate in community structures such as the Community Policing and Substance Abuse Forums to help law enforcement agencies to deal with criminals benefiting from illegal drugs in our society.

If we see this things happening in our communities, if we know drug lords in our communities and still choose to remain silent, we become partners in their illegal activities. We can only build healthy and drug-free communities if we:

- Get to know the facts about drugs
- Make it easy for your children to talk to you and know their friends
- Talk to your children about drugs. If you don't, they might get wrong information and bad influence from other people
- Spend time with your children. Remember no other person can have a greater influence on your child than his/her parents.

I would like to emphasise that every citizen, young and old, has a role to play in the fight against alcohol and substance abuse. We urge all community members to treat substance and drug abuse as serious matters. Known drug dealers must be reported to the police.

No individual, family or community is safe where alcohol and substance abuse take control. Through the anti-substance abuse campaign, we want to inspire our young people and mobilise community support to combat alcohol and substance abuse.

Our Municipality will continue to work with various levels of government, community groups and non-governmental organisations to fight drug abuse.

I call on and challenge everyone here today to create an on-going awareness and consciousness about the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse amongst the people of this beloved municipality. Let us together take drastic steps and measures as a matter of priority to arrest the scourge of alcohol and substance abuse.

Together, we can help our young people make healthy and smart choices. Let us all encourage them to stay alert, to stay engaged, and to take full advantage of every opportunity that our government has to offer them.

Ke a leboga.