



health

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MEDIA STATEMENT

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Deputy Minister Dhlomo launches Health and Skills Development programme

The Deputy Minister of Health, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has today (Monday, 07 August) presided over the launch of a Hub of Hope – a Health and Skills Development programme for adolescent and young people of Gcumisa and neighbouring communities under UMshwathi Local Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal.

The hub is aligned to the department's broader youth support programme to empower young people with health information to make well informed health choices and economic opportunities to increase their skills and knowledge, and improved employability.

The launch was organised in partnership with KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development Tourism and Environmental affairs (EDTEA); TB HIV Care - a non-profit organisation that aims to improve TB management by increasing access to TB and HIV diagnosis, care, treatment; uMqungundlovu District Municipality; Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) and other public institutions.

The programme is implemented through DREAMS (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored and Safe) model - an ambitious public-private partnership aimed at reducing rates of HIV among adolescent girls and young women (AGYW), decrease teen pregnancy, keep girls in school, decrease sexual & GBV and increase economic strengthening.

According to Deputy Dhlomo, apart from health services, the programme also offers skills development opportunities including Basic Computer Training, Baking, Hairdressing, Beauty Technology, Nail Technology and Book keeping. Most of these training opportunities targeted at out-of-school youths are accompanied by starter packs upon completion to enable them become entrepreneurs.

The launch was attended by amongst others, District and Local Mayors, Senior government officials from the South African Police Service, SASSA, over 900 Masijabule High learners, Parents and members of School Governing Body.

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