



Youth Crime Prevention Desk NEWSLETTER

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Moving ahead



Katlehong and Tembisa clusters YCPD members participating in the #EKSE! My Voice, My Safety New Media initiative.

When 34 young people from Ekurhuleni were selected to attend a course on social media, they had no idea they were part of a global project.

Supported by GIZ, the #EKSE! My Voice, My Safety New Media initiative is a three-way partnership between the South African Police Service, the Gauteng Department of Community Safety and the GIZ.

Launched in early February, the project aims to give young people a voice to communicate important issues affecting their communities by using social media.

At a learning event held at the Tembisa police station on 6 March, GIZ Technical Advisor Allan Boesak told participants that they were part of a pilot project unfolding in five other countries including Togo, Ecuador, Bangladesh, and Palestinian territories.

The initiative came about as a result of an analysis that found that although Youth Crime Prevention Desks were effective at creating safer spaces within communities, they found communicating with young people and other youth desks a challenge.

Hence the New Media project was launched.

Baptised #EK SE! My Voice, My Safety at the first workshop in Fourways, the project has so far ensured that every youth desk in the Katlehong and Tembisa clusters has a Facebook page and that each of the participating members has a Twitter handle and an email address.

"Each cluster has also been tasked with going into the community and collecting 67 ideas for International Mandela Day"

At a second workshop held in Randburg at the end of March,

youth desk members learnt how to organise a radio show; took part in a Twitter chat and made their voices heard about the link between substance abuse and violence. They also learnt how to take good pictures using their phones, while some set up their own blogs.

Each cluster has also been tasked with going into the community and collecting 67 ideas for International Mandela Day on 18 July.

This marks the beginning of a campaign that will ensure that whatever activity that youth desk members get involved in this year are sustainable - that their impact will last long after Mandela Day has come and gone.

Tweeting youth views

Youth Crime Prevention Desk members who attended a workshop on social media, made their views heard during a tweet-up on the link between substance abuse, crime and violence recently.

Taking place on the second day of the workshop, the tweet-up happened at the same time as a panel discussion facilitated by German International Cooperation (GIZ) Technical Advisor, Allan Boesak. Colonel Madelein Bunce of the South African Police Service, Gauteng Department of Community Safety's Mothibi Mohomane and Soul City Institute's Jenny Button made up the panel.

Youth desk members in the audience took to Twitter to have a parallel discussion edged on by the conversation in the room. As part of an assignment, participants previously conducted surveys via social media to find out the most pressing issues in their respective communities. Substance abuse emerged as a problem most communities were struggling with.

Bunce mentioned that part of the problem was that young people did not consider marijuana a serious drug. "They say it is a herb." The problem with that thinking, Bunce said, was that young people did not realise that marijuana was often a stepping stone to stronger drugs.

Dawn Park YCPD chairperson, Kabelo Manamela wondered how the seriousness of smoking dagga could be communicated to the youth. "Youths say...Marijuana is not a drug its a herb - it's grown. Panado is a drug - it's concentrated. How do you debate this in teachings," - he tweeted.

Another problem was that alcohol and drugs were readily available to youth who had little else to occupy their time. Community mapping in Montshiwa, North West by Soul City Institute's Phuza Wize campaign revealed there were more shebeens than youth centres. Phuza Wize provides education on how to create safer drinking spaces within communities. Research had also found that there was a link between substance abuse and crime, Button said.

Katlehong Cluster sets pace

The Katlehong Cluster was first at the starting blocks to hold a take-it-back workshop on 27 February.

Taking it back to the communities is a crucial part of the #EK SE! My Voice, My Safety New Media initiative as only two members per Youth Crime Prevention Desk (YCPD) were selected to attend the programme.

The steering committee of the initiative – comprised of the German International Development Cooperation (GIZ), South African Police Service, Gauteng Department of Community Safety, and Community Policing Forums and Youth Crime Prevention Desks – has always emphasised the importance of taking back the lessons learned to ensure that the skills acquired benefit the youth desk as a whole.

“We didn’t want to wait until August when the programme ends to feedback,” chairperson of the cluster Thoko Radebe said. They held a session at the Katlehong police station, attended by more than 50 people.

Radebe asked for help from several quarters. Fellow #EK SE! My Voice, My Safety participant Marvin January facilitated the session. Gauteng Provincial YCPD Treasurer Boitshepo Gaborone, provided the laptop. For assistance with catering, Radebe went all the way up to Gauteng Department of Community Safety Deputy Director Nonhlanhla Dlamini. Radebe and her team were commended for taking the initiative at the GIZ learning event at Tembisa police station on 6 March.



How to organise a radio show: Soul City Institute's Radio Coordinator, Zamo Nkatshu outlines how #EK SE! My Voice, My Safety members can be heard.

Getting youth involved in IDP process

Have you heard of the Integrated Development Planning (IDP) process? “Integrated what?”

Local municipalities use IDPs to plan for the future development of their areas.

The IDP process is democratic and involves the entire municipality and its citizens to find the best solutions to improve the lives of people living in the area.

But this does not happen without community input. To support this process, GIZ would like #EK SE! My Voice, My Safety participants to raise

their voices in this process.

IDPs have a lifespan of five years (councillors’ term of office) but are reviewed every year.

Gauteng IDPs are currently unfolding and it is time to have your say!

The newly introduced 67 Ideas for Mandela Day campaign presents a unique opportunity for #EK SE! My Voice, My Safety participants to take part in the IDPs.

Having collected the 67 Ideas on how to make their communities safer via social media and other means – par-

First assignment feedback



Kagiso Seleke and Bongiwe Bunga hold up a poster showing steps the Katlehong Youth Desk members went through to complete their first assignment.

Language of safety takes centre stage

#EKSE! My Voice, My Safety New Media initiative participants attended the learning event held at the Tembisa police station hosted by the Violence and Crime Prevention Programme from the German International Cooperation (GIZ) on 6 March.

GIZ Technical Advisor, Allan Boesak, kicked-off the programme and explained that the purpose of the event was to build on the terminology, language and understanding of safety introduced at the first workshop held at Indaba Hotel on 4 to 6 February.

The new media initiative participants attended the event along with the Social Crime Prevention Coordinators from their respective police stations. South African Police Service representative on the steering committee of the social media programme, Colonel Caiphus Ramahuma, was pleased with the turn-out saying the presence of the Social Crime Prevention Coordinators indicated police stations were supportive of #EKSE! My Voice, My Safety.

He said the project was crucial because it would help the youth desks to connect with the community.

Crucial

"This is important because police cannot be successful without the cooperation of the community. Police cannot be everywhere," Ramahuma said. Police need the community to be their eyes and ears, he added.

Boesak informed attendants that the South African chapter of the new media project was one of five international pilots taking place in



GIZ Technical Advisor, Joan Moeketsi, outlines crime statistics - young people in SA under the age of 34 are seen as either the main victim or perpetrator of social violence. Monica Monyalotse (left).

Togo, Ecuador, Bangladesh and Palestinian territories.

GIZ Technical Advisor, Joan Moeketsi, went through

crime statistics saying that young people in SA under the age of 34 were perceived as either the main perpetrators or victims of social violence.

However, it was encouraging that YCPD members had taken a stand and decided to do something about the crime and violence in their communities.

As a practical exercise, utilising the typology of violence, Moeketsi let participants to break-up into groups to discuss prevalent crime incidences in their communities. Bullying, domestic violence, drug

abuse, rape, prostitution, harmful religious practices and xenophobia were some of the community challenges highlighted.

Risk

The group then discussed risk and protective factors within communities which exposed young people to crime and violence.

Projects the youth desks have initiated in their communities to counter these risks were also discussed.

Closing the event, Chairman of the Gauteng YCPDs Jeff Mohlele urged members to stay clear of the tried and tested, but to come up with more innovative community projects.

Double impact

It turns out Dawn Park Youth Crime Prevention Desk chairperson, Kabelo Manamela, is a twin.

Manamela and his sister Katlego were featured in the *Boksburg Advertiser* for the work they do in the community.

She's a Lovelife ground-breaker at the Dawn Park Clinic and he spends his days ensuring that crime and violence are prevented before they take place. "People in the community know that she's with Lovelife and I am with the youth desk.

We leave the house together in the morning and



Kabelo Manamela, Dawn Park Youth Crime Prevention Desk chairperson, with his twin sister Katlego.

walk down the street.

She turns towards the clinic and I walk on to catch a taxi," Manamela said.

The 23-year-old twins live with their mother, who they

say is very proud of them.

"It puts a smile on her face to see that her twins are both out to change the world."

Changing lives, one at a time

Katlehong Cluster Youth Crime Prevention Desk chairperson Thoko Radebe recently made news when she appeared in the *Germiston City Times*.

Radebe told the local community newspaper how she took to smoking dagga in high school and how that led to her failing Grade 12 four times. She eventually cleaned up her life, stopped smoking and passed Matric.

She soon met another hurdle as there were no funds for her to study further. After several unsuccessful attempts to find work, a friend invited her to volunteer at the Katlehong Police Station, where she started as a member of the



Katlehong Cluster YCPD Chairman Thoko Radebe's story of triumph appeared in the *Germiston City Times*.

youth desk.

Now, as chair of the cluster youth desk, Radebe helps other young people with drug abuse problems.

"Walking on the streets, being greeted and appreciated by those I've helped and also knowing I've made a difference in their lives is very rewarding,"

she told *Germiston City Times*.

Radebe also explained that volunteering is not just about giving; "You acquire skills for which you normally would have had to go to school, like project management; you learn a lot and grow as a person, it's really not a waste of time."

Gauteng youth desk gains new followers

In the Twitter sphere, nothing is more flattering than being followed by an important person – particularly if that person occupies a high rank in your industry. So it was with awe that Gauteng Provincial Youth Crime Desk Treasurer, Boitshepo Gaborone, shared news of the @gpyouthdesk handle's new followers.

Gaborone manages the Gauteng youth desk's social media platform and was pleasantly surprised to note, during the Tweet-up on the link between substance abuse and crime on 27 March, that Crime Line and its Head, Yusuf Abramjee, the South African Police Service and Jacaranda News had started following @gpyouthdesk.

The Tweet-up took place on Day 2 of Workshop 2 of the #EK SE! My Voice, My Safety new media communications training held in Randburg.

What is vine?

Vine is a Twitter app that allows you to record and share videos no longer than six seconds.

The app allows you to record short frames which can be brought together to make the six second video.

Vine was founded by three New Yorkers. They always enjoyed sharing videos with each other and wanted others to join in the fun.

Four months later before the app was even released to the public, it was bought out by Twitter for an estimated \$30 million.

Anyone with the right smartphone can download Vine.

Just like Twitter, you will have a profile page on Vine with most of the information pulled from Twitter.

The Soul City Institute and frayintermedia are service providers on this project.

#EKSE! My Voice, My Safety is a partnership between



Useful FYIs for #sm4ycpd:

WhatsApp group: #EK SE! My Voice, My Safety

Zanele Sabela: zanelesabela@gmail.com

Soul City Institute: @SoulCityItsReal

frayintermedia: @frayintermedia

Gauteng Provincial YCPD: @gpyouthdesk

Gauteng Department of Community Safety:

@GP_CommSafety