



Youth Crime Prevention Desk

# NEWSLETTER

Edition #2

June 2014

## #EK SE! Mandela Day

Youth Crime Prevention Desk (YCPD) members from the Tembisa and Katlehong clusters are gearing up to make International Mandela Day a success.

The Tembisa Cluster YCPD will clean-up Motheong Park, with a view to reclaiming it as a community space. Tembisa Cluster chairperson, Kgomo Mokoka said the park has become a crime hotspot.

"People are mugged when they walk through the park," he said.

Fellow cluster member, Lawrence Ndlovu said the park was also identified as a prostitution hub.

The idea is to mobilise the community, local NGOs, the police and local government structures to contribute towards cutting overgrown grass and beautifying the space in the earlier part of 18 July to prepare for various festivities later on in the day.

Another idea proposed at the workshop was for the cluster to stage a play that will educate children about playing safe and not hurting each other.

GIZ Technical Advisor Allan Boesak is impressed with the idea saying it might even unearth talented individuals



Agents of change: participants of the #EKSE! My Voice, My Safety New Media Communication training.

who might otherwise have been overlooked.

The Katlehong Cluster will concentrate its efforts on cleaning up one school by bringing in various sectors of the community including parents, local business and relevant organisations. They will focus on activities such as painting the school building, tending to the garden and fixing broken windows and desks.

Colonel Caiphus Ramahuma suggested participants could also call on local

artists to draw murals of Nelson Mandela on some school walls to commemorate the campaign.

The 67 Ideas to Make the Community Safer is a flagship campaign of the #EK SE! My Voice, My Safety New Media Communication Training. Part of the assessment at the end of Workshop 2, was for participants to go into the community and collect 67 ideas on how to make their communities safer.

Social media and other means were used to collect the ideas.

Each cluster then selected the top five ideas which they would implement on 18 July. The key factor of the 67 Ideas to Make the Community Safer is sustainability. To fulfil this requirement YCPD members have vowed to roll-out the projects to more than one site.

A big part of the Learning Event in August will be to review how members captured the various activities as they unfolded.

## Drawing up social media guidelines for YCPD members

YCPD members recently brainstormed a set of social media guidelines to support their online activities.

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He noted that the guidelines would have to be approved at a higher level. "Only the PEC (Provincial Executive Com-

mittee) can make decisions on behalf of the YCPD," he said.

Mohlele promised to table the matter at the next PEC meeting.

The following will be used as a base for the guidelines to be submitted to the PEC:

- Be aware you are posting as the YCPD
- Keep usernames and passwords safe
- Be respectful towards the public and other members of the YCPD
- Stay clear of naming brands and people
- Tell the truth, be factual
- Do not post profanities/ vulgar language
- Use pictures respectfully, protect individuals' privacy – do not use pictures of people to illustrate content that has nothing to do with them
- Ensure fairness at all times

- Do not discriminate against others on the basis of race, gender, religion, culture and age

- Always credit the source of content if it is not yours

- Remember that you represent the YCPD at all times

- Do not use SAPS/ DoCS logos or databases without permission.

- Avoid posting party political statements on YCPD social networks.

# Youth on crime and violence

Youth Crime Prevention Desk (YCPD) members Nonkululeko Ngwenya, Kabelo Manamela and Lawrence Ndlovu with Youth News Agency (YNA) members Koketso Moeti and Simphiwe Rens took part in a panel discussion facilitated by Unathi Jobela.

The subject of discussion was young people, crime and violence. YCPD members in the audience tweeted their opinions and engaged with the panellists at different points.

Moeti introduced a new perspective to the discussion, suggesting that conventional definitions of violence are often too narrow. "Violence is not just physical," she said. Moeti explained that violence can also be structural in cases where people didn't have access to basic services such as water, food and shelter.

According to Moeti, a lack of access to basic human rights such as these, constitutes violence in its own right. In the audience, Zanele Sizani tweeted: "People violate each other's rights because they don't have a clear understanding of human rights." Eugene Kley echoed her views, adding that young people had to be informed about their rights.

Addressing the panel, Marvyn January wondered why youth today weren't willing to negotiate, opting instead to push through their point of view. In response, the king of multi-tasking, Ndlovu tweeted, "To most youth in schools violence



Panellists discussed crime and violence in the youth: Simphiwe Rens, Koketso Moeti, Kabelo Manamela, Nonkululeko Ngwenya, and moderator Unathi Jobela.

has come to be seen as a necessary and justified means of resolving conflict." GIZ Technical Advisor, Allan Boesak weighed in saying

**"To most youth in schools violence has come to be seen as a necessary and justified means of resolving conflict"**

the solution started with positive parenting. Panellist, Ngwenya brought up the issue of young parents, "Most still have to grow up themselves. They need support and information."

January put the blame squarely at government's door, questioning why a 12-year-old girl would be entitled to a termination of pregnancy on demand but was still considered too young to have consensual sex, resulting in a statutory rape charge for her partner. Soul City's Jenny Button hit back and tweeted: "We always talk about girls getting pregnant. What about the boys?"

Rens introduced coverage of violence and crime by mainstream media, pointing out that some of the problem was that criminals were portrayed as role models. "The only way to improve the quality of media coverage is to stop consuming the junk we are fed," Moeti said.

**Congratulations!**



Norkem Park YCPD member Boitumelo Mthembu has secured herself contract employment with the Ekurhuleni Municipality.



Katlehong Cluster YCPD member Jonas Lubisi has been selected for the 12-month Traffic Officer Learnership, after which he will be placed in a job.

## YCPD in the spotlight

If June is Youth Month, then May was media month for the Youth Crime Prevention Desk.

As part of an assignment participants of the #EK SE! My Voice, My Safety New Media Communication Training were tasked with organising a radio show per cluster.

Katlehong Cluster pulled off a coup when they arranged for of the Gauteng Department of Community Safety spokesperson, Thapelo Moiloa, to join cluster chairperson Thoko Radebe as a guest on the show on 21 May.

The interview was live on Kasie FM 97.1 during the lunchtime slot. Substance abuse in the community was the subject of discussion. Moiloa informed listeners of various programmes the department was running to address the scourge.

Moroka Cluster had their interview earlier in the month on 13 May.

Nonkululeko Ngwenya and her colleagues spoke about the various projects the youth desk was involved in, including daytime patrols at parks to ensure that children were in school and not loitering around the parks. They also urged other young people to join the youth desk.

Arranging to be on radio proved challenging for the Tembisa Cluster due to a misunderstanding between officials at the radio station and authorities at the police station. Nkatshu was called in to intervene and the interview finally went ahead on 3 June. Subjects discussed included youth in and out of school, youth in trouble with the law and those affected by substance abuse. Cluster chairperson Kgomotso Mokoka said they were likely to have a subsequent interview.

Gauteng YCPD chairperson Jeff Mohlele

also appeared on SABC's Newsroom on 19 May. Mohlele was joined by Moiloa and the department's Reverend Teboho Klaas to discuss the rise in violent incidents associated with Satanism. The message was very clear – all three believed in every individual's right to practise a faith or religion of their choosing. However, they were concerned about the rising number of criminal and violent incidents associated with said faith.

Mohlele said, "As a nation we need to rise and make sure that Satanism does not affect us in terms of criminality. But as far as the religion is concerned, we have no say."

Moiloa urged parents to pay attention to their children and to contact the Department of Community Safety or the South African Police Service if they picked up on destructive behaviour they suspected could be linked to any religion.

## Facebook chart toppers

Workshop Three of the #EK SE! My Voice, My Safety New Media Communication Training saw the number of Facebook likes on various youth desk pages soar.

On the first day of the three-day workshop, frayintermedia MD Paula Fray challenged participants to double the number of likes on the youth desks' Facebook pages by the end of the workshop – a challenge many surpassed.

Most impressive was the Katlehong Cluster, which more than tripled its page likes. It was sitting on 30 likes on day one and ended off with a 111. Other pages that brought on the heat were Kempton Park (106 to 211) and Vosloorus, which went from 105 likes to 198. Tembisa topped 135 up from 87 and Eden Park moved from 80 to 138.

Norkem Park youth desk gained two more likes bringing the total to 64 even though none of its members were at the workshop. So, how did

these chart toppers catapult themselves to the top? The short answer is they constantly engaged their audience by posting interactive content.

Vosloorus put up a poster on the Ekurhuleni Career Expo; a warning about a group of men claiming to be from Eskom; a photo of youth desk members at a school promoting Child Protection Week; they also shared a link of a news item in their community that made national headlines, where a man kept his wife and children captive for years in his Springs home.

To generate interest, the Tembisa youth desk invited the community to a general meeting at their police station and announced the opening of a new police station in the community.

They also punted their interview with Voice of Tembisa (VOT) beforehand so people would tune in.

Youth desk members also posted a photo of themselves



**Moving up:** Members of the Katlehong Cluster YCPD reached new heights on their Facebook page as they went from 30 to 111

outside the VOT studios before the interview – giving the page an 'as it happens' feel that is so crucial for social media.

Eden Park was very active around Child Protection Week posting fact sheets along with photos.

They also generated interest in the soccer tournament they

hosted by putting up a poster. Photos of the day's events would make for a good follow-up. Most youth desks have also started sharing each other's content – a great move as it not only increases audience numbers and engagement but also strengthens the Youth Crime Prevention Desk's brand.

# Youth news agents

If you were impressed by Kokesto Moeti and Simphiwe Rens when they joined the youth desk panel discussion and Twitter chat at Greenwood Manor at the end of May – you are not the only one.

The pair are journalists at the Youth News Agency (YNA). A project of Media Monitoring Africa, YNA's vision is to ensure views and issues affecting young people are adequately reflected in mainstream media.

Earlier this year YNA called for applications from youth aged 18 to 34 who longed for the youth voice on issues of the day to be heard and wanted to see their articles published in newspapers.

Applicants also had to be proficient in English, be computer literate, have access to the internet, basic writing skills and an interest in news.

The selected group were trained and mentored by some of the best working

journalist and editors today. YNA members are assigned stories to work on and if these are good enough, they are published in newspapers.

When not working on YNA articles, Moeti makes her opinion heard on the *Mail and Guardian* Thought Leadership platform on issues as diverse as the right to internet access and active citizenry. She also writes for *Safe World for Women* and also covers happenings in the NGO sector via [www.ngopulse.org](http://www.ngopulse.org). Moeti also runs her own blog, *Through My Eyes...*

Rens is doing his Masters in Media Studies at Wits University and also co-hosts a radio talk show, *Young Motivation*, on [Transafricaradio.net](http://Transafricaradio.net).

The show is on from 11am to 2pm every Sunday and motivates young people to be the best they can be.



Youth News Agency members Kokesto Moeti and Simphiwe Rens offered interesting insights at the panel discussion.

## You've been sketched

Ever wondered who the guy and girl sitting quietly in the back sketching away in their books are? And what is it that they are sketching?

They are the dynamic duo from the Pretoria-based agency, Brother Lawrence. Their service offering includes advertising, illustration and production, plus design and production for web and print.

Directors, 29-year-old Gerhard van Wyk and 22-year-old Karabo Moletsane teamed up in January 2014. They have been working with GIZ to create an illustrated booklet capturing the #EK SE! My Voice, My Safety New Media Communication Training.

GIZ consultant Isabel Faller says, "We want the booklet to tell a story as well as educate other youth desks."

The booklet will feature animated illustrations of the participants. "There were lots of interesting personalities at the workshops," Van Wyk says, "It was fun trying

to capture a bit of their personalities as we were drawing them."

Moletsane agrees saying, "The interesting part was talking and sharing ideas with so many people who are passionate about the safety of their communities. I enjoyed seeing how happy everyone was with the end result. They recognised themselves in the drawings."

Van Wyk has been drawing since he was four years old and undertook formal study in Information Design at the University of Pretoria.

"I grew up reading a lot of Asterix and Tintin, I wanted to be as good as the illustrators of those books," he says.

Moletsane has been drawing for just as long and studied Visual Communication at The Open Window School of Visual Communication.

"I was interested in drawing and creativity. A lecturer suggested I pick Illustration



Drawing duo: Illustrators Gerhard van Wyk and Karabo Moletsane, are working on a booklet showcasing the #EK SE! My Voice, My Safety initiative.

when I was selecting subjects I'd major in while in varsity," she says.

Besides their creative edge, Van Wyk and Moletsane boast other impressive talents.

Van Wyk is a public speaker and qualified barista (professional coffee maker). Moletsane plays the guitar and is also a painter.

The booklet will be completed soon and ready for you to feast your eyes on at the Learning Event in August.

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

**community safety**  
Department: Community Safety  
**GAUTENG PROVINCE**



**YOUTH CRIME PREVENTION DESK**  
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The Soul City Institute and frayintermedia are service providers on this project.

**Useful FYIs for #sm4ycpd:**

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

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**Soul City Institute:** @SoulCityItsReal

**frayintermedia:** @frayintermedia

**Gauteng Provincial YCPD:** @gpyouthdesk

**SAPS:** @SAPoliceService

**Gauteng Department of Community Safety:** @GP\_CommSafety

