



Youth Crime Prevention Desk

NEWSLETTER

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#EKSE! iyavaya

Gauteng MEC for Community Safety, Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane has given #EKSE! My Voice, My Safety her stamp of approval.

Nkosi-Malobane attended the final learning event at Gillooly's Farm in Germiston on August 22 and handed out certificates to the participants.

Giving the keynote address, the MEC said she believed civil servants and community workers should communicate in a language understood by the people they served.

"I am happy with this programme in particular because we are using a language that young people understand and will respond to immediately," Nkosi-Malobane said.

She said even the name #EKSE! My Voice, My Safety made you want to know more. Nkosi-Malobane said the idea of using social media for crime and violence

prevention fitted perfectly with the province's recent announcement of e-policing - using technology to communicate issues of policing in particular crime prevention. NGO German International Cooperation's (GIZ) Violence and Crime Prevention Programme Manager, Dr Tina Silbernagl pledged her organisation's support of the programme for the next four years.

#EKSE! My Voice, My Safety is a new media and communications training programme aimed at teaching members of Youth Crime Prevention Desks (YCPD) to use social and traditional media strategically to improve communication with their communities.

The programme is a partnership that sees the Gauteng Department of Community Safety, South African Police Service (Saps), Community Police Forum (CPF) and GIZ working together.



MEC Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane.

Thirty volunteers from the Tembisa and the Katlehong branches of the YCPD were selected to be part of the programme after research showed volunteers struggled to communicate with young people in their communities and other youth desks. Similar projects have been running in Togo, Ecuador, Bangladesh and the Palestinian territories.

What did the Final Learn



"It was about celebrating eight months of hard work and showcasing our achievements as well as sharing what we learned with fellow YCPD members, who were not part of #EKSE! My Voice, My Safety"
- Thoko Radebe





"The Learning event means now I am able to convey all the relevant information about the YCPD, as well as the work it does in the community using social media. It also means I can share the skills I learned at the workshops with other youth desk members about how we can use social to our advantage." - Phillip Mnisi



"It meant a lot to me because when #EKSE! My Voice, My Safety started I knew nothing about social media and I was not interested. But I can tell you now, that I enjoyed every module." - Simon Mathobela



Bitter sweet honour



Kagiso Seleke (24) was awarded a New Media and Communications certificate posthumously at the #EKSE! My Voice, My Safety graduation ceremony in Germiston on 22 August.

Seleke died on 9 July after a short illness. He complained of pain in his leg and despite several tests, doctors are still unable to explain why he died. His uncle, Jazzman

Seleke accepted the certificate on his behalf. Seleke told Youth Manager at the Gauteng Department of Community Safety, Mothibi Mohomane, that he was impressed with the ceremony and that the discussions had opened his mind to a more optimistic community scenario. A close friend of Seleke's, Zanele Sizani, broke-down when she went up to accept her own certificate.

"I have been in denial of his death all this time. But today I realise he is not coming back," she said.

A special table with roses and a lit candle was laid out in remembrance of Seleke. His colleagues took turns writing messages in a special notebook.



Bongiwe
Bunga

Onto a bright future...

Graduates of #EKSE! My Voice, My Safety are already investing their skills in a brighter future with several moving on to new jobs.

Participant Nonkululeko Ngwenya told the Learning event gathering that she had secured herself a job as a direct result of having been part of the programme. At least two participants — Jonas Ubisi and Boitumelo Mthembu — could not attend the event due to employment. And Marvyn January has started as a Soul Buddyz mentor at Soul City.

Ngwenya proudly announced at the graduation ceremony held at Gillooly's Farm in Germiston on August 22 that she had been offered a position as an administrator and social media officer at a construction company. She credited the New Media and Communications training course for having given her the edge to ace the job interview after receiving a recommendation from the Youth Manager at the Gauteng Department of Community Safety, Mothibi Mohomane. Ngwenya regularly posted job and bursary opportunities to the Moroka Cluster YCPD social media platforms and was delighted to have benefitted from the one of the opportunities.



Nonkululeko Ngwenya
with Colonel Caiphus
Ramahuma.

Ngwenya and Dawn Park YCPD member Kabelo Manamela joined Gauteng MEC for Community Safety, Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane, Ekurhuleni Community Safety MMC Mthuthuzile Sibhoza, GIZ's Dr Tina Silbernagl, CPF board member TJ Masilela, Sifiso Ndaba from the Premier's Office and the Steering Committee's Colonel Caiphus Ramahuma for a panel discussion at the graduation ceremony.

Ek sê Lutsha, Lesedi

Meet Lutsha and Lesedi. The fictional Youth Crime Prevention Desk (YCPD) members are the main characters of the #EKSE! My Voice, My Safety booklet.

An important product of the project, the booklet tells the story of the training programme from start to finish.

The idea is to use the booklet as a blueprint for future New Media training programmes for the YCPD.

#EKSE! My Voice, My Safety participants came up with the names Lutsha and Lesedi. GIZ consultant, Isabel Faller said the reason was so they could feel they owned the booklet.

"It is exciting to see the finished product. It's clear the designers understood the initiative because they were there from the beginning," said Faller.

Everyone involved in the project had input. The Steering Committee held regular meetings with the design team from Brother Lawrence Studios, during which they saw various drafts and shaped the booklet into the finished product.



Useful FYIs for #sm4ycpd:

WhatsApp group: #EKSE! My Voice, My Safety

ZaneleSabela:

zanelebsabela@gmail.com

Soul City Institute: @SoulCityItsReal

frayintermedia: @frayintermedia

Gauteng Provincial YCPD: @gpyouthdesk

SAPS: @SAPoliceService

Gauteng Department of Community Safety: @GP_CommSafety

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

The #EKSE! My Voice, My Safety New Media initiative is a partnership between

