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Youth For Safer Communities

Youth Safety Summit

28 – 30 November 2014

Willows Conference Centre, Nelson Mandela Bay



masifunde

LEARNER DEVELOPMENT

Dear Reader,

Thank you for your interest in the Youth for Safer Communities project and its Youth Safety Summit 2014.

welcome note

90 learners from 26 high schools met from the 28th to the 30th of November 2014 at the Willows Conference Resort to discuss safety issues in their communities. They developed suggestions for the local

Municipality's key challenges in the creation of safer spaces, evaluated and planned the way forward for their school safety projects, and worked on the concept of a local hero of safety. This local hero of safety

concept analysed how each individual can contribute towards the creation of safer spaces and the prevention of violent and criminal behaviour.

This booklet summarises the results of the three days and shares them with the interested public. Our goal is to be able to

feed them into decision making processes within the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality

We thank everybody who made the 2014 Youth Safety Summit a huge success: the Violence and Crime Prevention Programme (VCP) team, the GIZ, the local Municipality, the high schools and its staff and most importantly, the learners of the Youth for Safer Communities Project whose motivation, discipline and creativity is an inspiration to all of us: "With youth like you we do not worry about the future!"

Your YSC Team,

Linda, Jonas, Shane & Yolo



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programme of the youth summit 2014

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Facilitation of school project workshops: Sakhile Mgadi (Debate), Freda Sauls (Empowerment), Zena Bally (Drama)

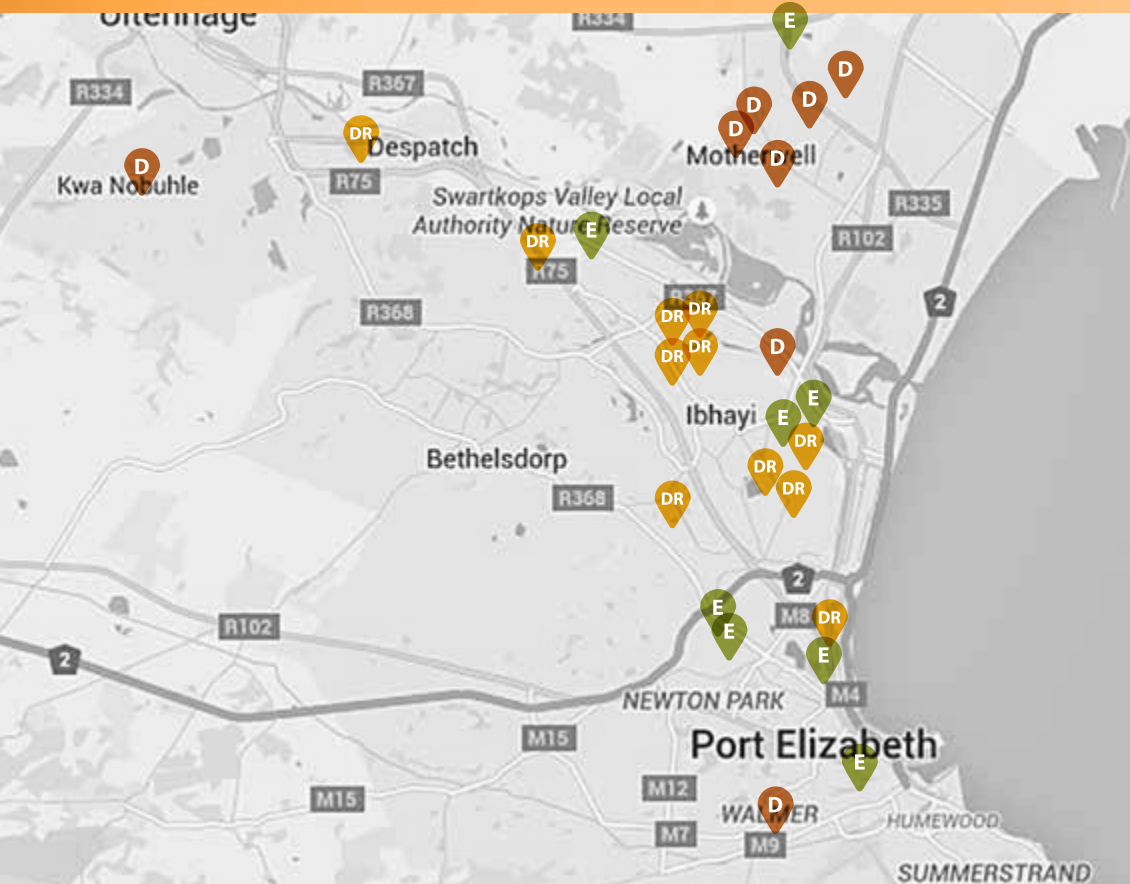
ACTIVITY		RESPONSIBILITY	OBJECTIVE
DAY 1			
11h00	Opening and Welcome		
12h00	Debate match	Schools' Debate Clubs	Refresh participants' knowledge on the challenges of safety in communities and schools and the role youth can play.
15h00	Recap 2014's progress and group objectives for the summit	1. Work in small groups <ul style="list-style-type: none">Debating ClubsDrama GroupsEmpowerment / Peer-helping groupsYSC Workshop FacilitatorsLocal Heroes of Safety nominees. 2. Presentation in Plenary	Groups reflect on highlights and lowlights of 2014. Groups set objectives for the summit.
17h00	Team building	All	Participants build a bond and start working as a team.
19h00	Performances	Drama Groups from 3 schools	Participants get inspired by three plays focussing on safety issues. Best drama groups receive opportunity to showcase their work.
DAY 2			
09h00	Municipal challenges in the creation of safer public spaces	1. Presentation by Municipal Representative 2. Plenary discussion in World Café Style	Participants engage with Municipal representative, analyse the causes of crime and violence in the Metro and the challenges faced by the Municipality in the creation of safer public spaces. Participants develop potential solutions and suggestions for action. Participants discuss youth's role and their own role.
14h00	Strategic planning of YSC groups for 2015/2016	Work in small groups <ul style="list-style-type: none">Debating ClubsDrama GroupsEmpowerment / Peer-helping groupsYSC-Workshop-FacilitatorsLocal Heroes of safety nominees.	The school projects (debate, drama and empowerment) develop a plan for action in 2015 and 2016. The YSC facilitators work on facilitation skills and improving of the YSC workshops for 2015 and 2016. The schools' Local Heroes of Safety reflect on their role as local heroes, develop a general concept of local heroes and develop a plan on how more local heroes of safety can be groomed in their schools.
18h00	Preparation of presentations	Work in small groups	Each group develops a presentation for the plenary session. Representatives for the panel discussion prepare the results of the session on "municipal challenges" and prepare for the panel discussion.
DAY 3			
09h00	Presentations	Representatives of school projects and local heroes of safety Sign up	School projects present their plan of action New schools are motivated to start one of the school projects and sign up for it Local heroes present their concept of how a local hero of safety has to act and behave and motivates every learner to act as local hero, too
11h00	Panel Discussion	Nominated learners and representatives of Municipality	Discussion on the municipal challenges in the creation of safer public spaces and presentation of the learners' suggestions and call to action.
14h00	Reflection, Evaluation, Closure		

The “Youth for Safer Communities” project is a successful example of youth taking the initiative to make a difference in their schools and communities. 45 learners from Walmer Township, all part of Masifunde’s Learn4Life! programme, developed their own school safety and youth activation workshop in 2012. During the years 2013 – 2015, they ran their workshop for over 4 000 grade 10 learners in 34 high schools all over the Nelson Mandela Bay. The participants of the workshops were motivated to develop their own school projects to increase safety and to raise awareness. In the first youth summit from the 29th of November to the 1st of December 2013, learners from 25 schools voted to implement three projects in their schools as from 2014:

- Drama projects
- Debate clubs
- Empowerment Peer Helping projects

youth for safer communities projects

The second Youth Safety Summit took place from the 28th to the 30th of November 2014 at Willows Conference Centre, Port Elizabeth, with 90 participants from 26 schools.



High Schools at which Masifunde learners implemented the YSC workshop (At balloons marked with a letter, the learners implement YSC school projects:

- D Debate
- E Empowerment
- DR Drama

Summit Participants and Represented High Schools

SCHOOL	SCHOOL PROJECT
IKHWEZI LOMSO	DEBATE CLUB
GAMBLE STREET	DEBATE CLUB
GAMBLE STREET	DEBATE CLUB
TAMSANQA HIGH	DEBATE CLUB
ITHUBELIHLE HIGH	EMPOWERMENT
ITHUBELIHLE HIGH	EMPOWERMENT
KWAMAGXAKI HIGH	EMPOWERMENT
KWAMAGXAKI HIGH	EMPOWERMENT
LUNGISA HIGH	DRAMA CLUB
LUNGISA HIGH	DRAMA CLUB
PATERSON HIGH	DRAMA CLUB
PATERSON HIGH	EMPOWERMENT
VICTORIA PARK	EMPOWERMENT
LOYISO HIGH	DRAMA CLUB
NEWELL HIGH	DRAMA CLUB
NEWELL HIGH	DRAMA CLUB
ALEXANDER ROAD HIGH SCHOOL	EMPOWERMENT
LOYISO HIGH	DRAMA CLUB
TEMBALABANTU HIGH	DRAMA CLUB
ALEXANDER ROAD HIGH SCHOOL	EMPOWERMENT
JAMES JOLOBE	DEBATE CLUB
NCEDO HIGH SCHOOL	EMPOWERMENT
NCEDO HIGH SCHOOL	EMPOWERMENT
WALMER HIGH	DEBATE CLUB
WALMER HIGH	DEBATE CLUB
GELVANDALE HIGH	DRAMA CLUB
INDYEBO HIGH	DEBATE CLUB
COWAN HIGH SCHOOL	DRAMA CLUB





LEARNERS' RESPONSE TO MUNICIPAL CHALLENGES IN THE CREATION OF SAFE COMMUNITIES

The learners spent one day to discuss challenges which the Nelson Mandela Bay's Community Safety Forum (CSF) faces in the creation of safe communities. The young summit delegates engaged in the discussion about the major causes of crime and violence, developed suggestions for the CSF as well as for the youth to play an active role.

In small groups and plenary sessions, four challenges were discussed and the following suggestions developed:

1 Not everybody is working hard on building safer communities. We all seem to think that safety is the business of government and the police only. Yet we know that safety is everybody's business.

What could the municipality/CSF do to solve or reduce this challenge?

Suggestion one: Awareness raising so that Community members, young and old, together with the police and the municipality realise that the creation of safety is a shared responsibility.

Suggestion two: Organise platforms where the three parties have regular meetings where each party is encouraged to contribute to the creation of safety without using violent measures.

2 Youth are not actively involved in the building of safer communities. We find youth involvement in small pockets. Without the active involvement and contribution of youth the city will become even more unsafe.

What could the municipality/CSF do to solve or reduce the challenges?

Suggestion one: Crime and violence initiatives or measures should be done in a manner that is appealing to young people. The initiative should make use of young people who will motivate other young people to contribute to the creation of safety, working together with community leaders and the police.

Suggestion two: Make use of social media to get young people involved and raising awareness of the consequences of crime. The youth does not want to be told what to do they would much rather see the consequences of their actions.

Suggestion three: The government should ensure that the youth's voice is integrated into parliament and the city council. This will enable the youth to be in platforms where they can voice out their opinions and be involved in decision-making processes.

3 Gangsterism has become a major problem in the Metro. More and more young people are finding it fashionable and acceptable to be part of a gang.

What could the municipality/CSF do to solve or reduce the challenge?

Suggestion one: Most communities in the Metro lack positive role models as a result the youth sees the gangsters as their role models. The youth needs to be kept busy with positive activities like art and sport centres, so that they can become positive role models for the next generation.

Suggestion two: The Community Safety Forum should make use of peer-to-peer positive role modelling initiatives to tackle the problem of gangsterism.

Suggestion three: Awareness needs to be raised about the dangers of engaging in gang related activities. The awareness raising campaigns should make use of former offenders who will demotivate the youth from engaging in gangsterism and criminal activities. The target for these campaigns should start from primary school up to unemployed youth. The Community Safety Forum together with community leaders need to organise fun events with the theme of promoting safety. To ensure that the youth attend the events, the media, music and social networks should be involved.

The police and social services should go to schools on regular basis to provide basic services such as counselling for the youth at risk.

4 Many people, in general, are afraid of the police. Police are often seen as an enemy.

What could the municipality/CSF do to solve or reduce the challenges?

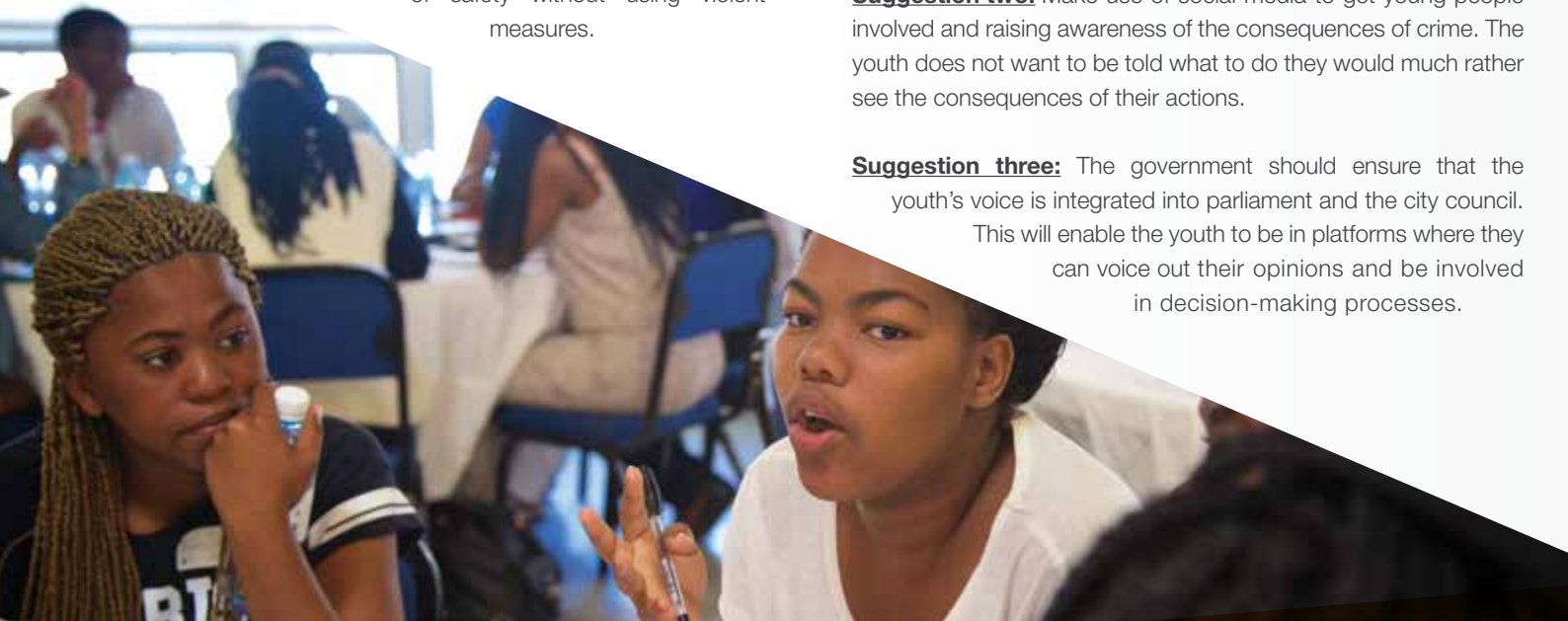
Suggestion one: The municipality should invest in changing people's negative perception of the police. The police should be more visible in the communities and be involved in all activities other than arresting people.

Suggestion two: The police should work hand in hand with the community leaders in the creation of safer communities. The police should be involved in the establishment of the police forums and night watch forums.

Suggestion three: The Police men and women should be equipped with skills necessary to provide social services to the communities, especially young people.

Suggestion four: More internal control in the police stations

Suggestion five: The police should help the CSF to educate the community members of their rights and responsibilities.



Debating

The action plan of the Debating Club for 2015 centres around the question of how to be a leader in your community. In order to draft a plan for 2015 the delegates firstly put on record what debating was, how to use debating and made sure that everyone understood the main concepts. The delegates carved out thinking on the spot and covering up mistakes as the basic theory of debating.

The delegates wanted to work on the topic of how to be a leader in your community by:

- Engaging in street debating where the police and ward counsellors could be invited to discuss, with the youth, the issues of safety
- Appearing on the local radio station, which included Madibaz radio, to engage in inter community debating
- Coining own debating clubs by advertising the auditions in platforms such as school magazines such as, for example, Walmer's Own Magazine at Walmer High School.

In 2015 the delegates wanted to meet every last Friday of the month in order to:

- Discuss the progress
- Improve team encouragement
- Watch NMMUDU debates
- Invite other schools

To promote team building among the debate clubs from the different schools the delegates planned on making excursions to the beach or the Sumcay Camp Centre and to do bush and bonding activities.

Drama for Dreamers

The group discussed the importance of using drama performances as a vehicle to send messages of change to the schools and communities. The Drama for Dreamers drafted a time schedule for 2015:



Schools' project ACTION PLANS for 2015

January 2015

- Write the script of a new play
- Recruit new members
- Sign contracts

February 2015

- Start with rehearsals
- Get weekly feedback for the play, criticism and suggestions on how to improve it
- Start with the marketing of the plays: designing posters and making it known on social networks
- Preparing for the performance

March 2015

- Present plays: hosted by Loyiso SS School
- Give an overview (Representatives)

April 2015

- Write a new script
- Start rehearsals for the second play

May 2015

- Present the second play: hosted by Lungisa High School
- Prepare for FETE: start of fundraising
- Rehearsals
- Overview of the progress

June 2015

- FETE
- Workshop preparation for July

July 2015

- Present one of the two plays at Newell High School
- Overview of the progress

August 2015

- Rehearsals
- Preparing for September performance

September 2015

- Perform the play
- Overview of the progress
- Preparing for Arts Camp

October 2015

- Arts Camp with the Drama for Dreamers and the Born Free Drama Group
- Rehearsals
- Preparing for selection for the Summit

November 2015

- Selection for the Summit, delegates are competing against each other: hosted by the Walmer High School
- Overview of the progress

December 2015

- YSC SUMMIT



Empowerment Group

The delegates of the Empowerment Group's ideas for 2015 were:

- To increase involvement at the schools in order to get more visible support.
- To invite Masifunde staff to events or actives more often so that the projects appeared more formal.
- To help with improving the time management of the students to make it possible for them to balance school and hobbies (e.g. sports).
- To improve the promotion of their projects by making them more visible
- To properly plan their projects in order to make them more sustainable.

In 2015, the Youth Empowerment Group wanted to concentrate on two main themes: to raise awareness of the problems and the programmes and to get support for the programmes.

THEMES	WHO?	ACTIVITIES/FORMAT
Awareness Raising Bullies, Peer Pressure, etc.	Grade 8, 9	Societies' Days Flash Mobs
Support for pro-grammes	Teachers	More Training
	Societies and Others	Team building



To achieve their goals, the Youth Empowerment Group drafted the following schedule for 2015:

1st term: Adjustment (Opening Party)

1. Marketing: T-Shirts (May), Flash Mob, Posters, Assembly (Jan-Dec), Recruiting
2. Adjustment 1st term: opening party/event, reps inform how team building will happen - suggestion box, Panel Discussions

2nd term: What's on your mind today?

1. Preparing for tests/exams: Study tips, Tutoring
2. Flash mob (mass) in May
3. Social issues such bullies and peer pressure

3rd term: Flash mob at school/closing off: rotate to schools per annum

the local hero of safety

*The youth are convinced:
Everybody has the potential to be
a local hero of safety. But what
does it mean to be one?*

Being a local hero of safety means being actively involved in the creation of safer schools and safer communities without bringing oneself in danger. Their own safety has priority – always!

Being a local hero of safety means to see the little things in life which can improve the well-being of others. It is not the heroic deed but the small yet impactful one. The local hero spots the problem, finds a solution and acts on it. Whether a friend needs someone to

talk to or a younger learner needs assistance with exam preparations – a small good deed can prevent negative developments in others

and contribute in the long term to positive change which in return increases the safety in our communities.

So what can you do to be a local hero of safety?

- Raise awareness, e.g. about positive behaviour
- Counselling and mentoring peers, e.g. by being a friend who listens and assists
- Volunteering in the community, e.g. in a children's or old age home
- Starting and running clubs,

e.g. a drama, soccer or music club

- Tutoring, e.g. by helping struggling learners in their own strong subjects
- Teaching life skills, e.g. by sharing your way to success with a sibling

What attributes describe a local hero of safety?

- Committed
- Actively involved
- Helpful
- Responsible
- Sacrificing
- Optimistic

Enthusiastic about change

- Self-driven
- Approachable
- Non-judgemental
- Confident
- Leading by example
- Compassionate
- Problem-solving
- Resilient
- Mediating
- Reliable
- Decisive
- Encouraging
- Humble
- Open-minded

Think about how much of a Local Hero of Safety is within you!

The summit delegates are convinced: **you too can be a local hero of safety**

