



Lephalale Municipality

Tel: 014 763 2193
Fax: 014 763 5662

Private Bag X136
Lephalale
Website: www.lephalale.gov.za

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Press Statement

Department of Justice awareness campaign

As part of an awareness campaign, the Limpopo Department of Justice in Lephalale Regional office, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Sector (LGBTI) together with the Equality Court Forum hosted a community session at Mokuruanyane Multi-purpose Centre in Lephalale on 18 October 2017.

Various stakeholders took the opportunity to present information to members of the public with the aim of:

- Raising awareness on human rights.
- Outlining the role of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Court, South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), Commission for Gender Equality, Legal Aid South Africa and other stakeholders in respect of LGBTI and Equality Courts
- Provide a networking opportunity between various stakeholders and the public to ensure a more active and effective use of the Equality Courts to counter discrimination, racism and other form of intolerances.

Peter Kolobe from the Department of Health, took the opportunity to discuss with the public on issues of available health services and the state of HIV/AIDS in the area. He said like with other border and mining towns, Lephalale is experiencing serious challenges of HIV/AIDS.

According to Kolobe the Department is also channelling its focus to key population groups (Gays, Sex workers, Truck drivers etc.) to educate them on measures to curb the spread of the pandemic and the benefits of circumcision. Parents were encouraged to start having discussions with their children on issues relating to sex and Sexual Transmitted Infections.

“Unlike in the past things have changed and it is our responsibility as parents to ensure that our children are well equipped with information and protected from engaging in activities that will endanger their health” said Kolobe.



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In closing Lephalale Municipality's Acting Manager in the Legal Division, Queen Mphahlele, said the Municipality ensures that in its mandate to uphold the human rights of residents within local communities, the provision of adequate services remains a priority.

She furthermore said that all residents within the Municipal jurisdiction are treated equally and fairly with their inherent dignity despite their sexual orientation.

"Lesbians, Gays, Bisexual and transgender intersexual people are human and deserve respect and support. The Municipality does not discriminate on the basis of one's sexual orientation, sex or gender".

Queries:

Conscious Chiloane
Communications Manager
LEPHALALE MUNICIPALITY
Tel: 014 7621496
0787251020
Email: conscious.chiloane@lephalale.gov.za