

Press Alert for immediate Release.

Date : 05 February 2008
From : The Department of Social Development
Office of the MEC
To : All Media
Att : Editors and News Editors
Re : Gauteng Social Development support campaign against substance Abuse!

The Department of Social development commends the Leadership of the ANC Youth League for entering the campaign against substance abuse. "It is our view that such a call will strengthen the fight against drugs and alcohol abuse" said MEC Kgaogelo Lekgoro.

MEC Lekgoro further called on all our communities to support and campaign against substance abuse. "We have a problem of excessive use of alcohol and dagga in families and the disturbing matter is that this phenomenon is on the increase among parents and children. Research shows that the most abused substances in Gauteng are alcohol, dagga and nicotine which are easily accessible on our streets especially townships and informal settlements" said MEC Lekgoro.

"We contend that excessive supply of liquor to our townships by the manufacturer's defeat our efforts in fighting abuse of substances. It is this excessive supply that brings about easy access to substances. In our townships unlike residential areas where the elites live, liquor is sold in almost every street or Second Street. It is sold 24 hours even to underage children. We are hit by billboards all over the townships advertising one brand of liquor or the other.

Shebeens and bottle stores are in the vicinity of learning institutions. School kids go to Shebeens sometimes in their uniforms. All this builds a culture where drinking is part of our social fabric and abuse easily sets in" said the MEC.

"Without disadvantaging small business, communities and government particularly at local level must grapple with how to lessen excessive supply of illicit substances in our communities" MEC Lekgoro said.

The Department of Social Development will continue calling for an increased support from families and communities to fight substance abuse and we welcome any organization that is committed to helping us fight this scourge in our communities.

For more information please contact Fred Mokoko on 082 447-8407.