

MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

MEDIA STATEMENT

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Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature holds Young Women's Forum

The Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature has taken its final leg sealing the women's month with a forum for the young women. The campaign is led by Provincial Speaker, Mrs Thandi Shongwe. Shongwe has encouraged the young women to focus on education.

"Sexually active young women are killing their future, when you proceed to take drugs like Nyaope and alcohol your body ceases to be God's temple but becomes Satan's playground". These were the words of the Speaker, Mrs Thandi Shongwe of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature as she addressed the Young Women Forum taking place at Sakhile Thusong Service Centre at Lekwa Local Municipality.

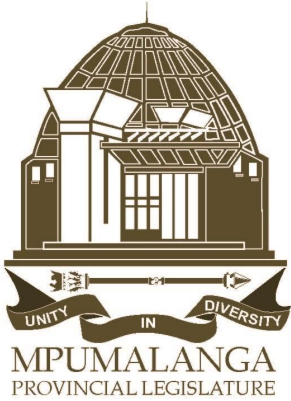
Speaker Shongwe addressed about 200 young women of ages from 14 to 35. She told girls that when you become sexually active at a young age you get exposed to sexually transmitted diseases, which sometimes lead to early deaths due to multiple sexually related conditions or diseases.

Speaker Shongwe also warned the young women of truck drivers that pass by the Lekwa area, saying some of the girls jump into these trucks where they become sexually exploited in exchange for money.

Reflecting on challenges facing young women in particular, around Lekwa, Nelisiwe Malinga [30], said uMgwinyo – a type of a drug, available in the area has led to a number of girls dating older men in order to find finances to satisfy their urge.

Speaker Shongwe says young people contribute to the economy of the country through education because educated people are able to think broader to establish and sustain business.

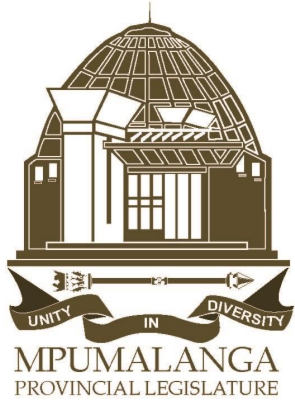
Girls made a commitment that they will do their best to stay away from drugs, sex and alcohol and that they will remain committed to education until they reach grade twelve and further tertiary education. Education assists young people to be more competitive and assertive in the society and they become less vulnerable to unnecessary destructive behaviour.



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