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Anti-crime campaign 'will build character'

31 MAY 2011 | SOWETAN NATION BUILDING | **2 COMMENTS**

A UNIQUE anti-crime campaign aimed at cultivating responsible behaviour among the youth is unfolding throughout Gauteng, writes Victor Mecoamere

Known as Stand Against Crime, the campaign - which is sponsored by financial services company, Computershare - involves public school pupils stealing moments from their crucial academic development schedules from Mondays to Thursdays between 1pm and 4pm and on Fridays between 1pm and 2pm to display anti-crime messages on busy road intersections.

This component of the Valued Citizens Initiative teaches responsible behaviour among several youth development activities in Gauteng, Free State, Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal.

The project started in February with three schools in Diepkloof, Soweto; Bosmont, south west of Johannesburg and in the Ferndale area, Randburg, north of Johannesburg.

These are Boipakiso Primary School in Diepkloof, GR Harris Primary School in Bosmont and Ferndale High School in Randburg, whose participating Grade 7 pupils - cooperate with supportive teachers, Valued Citizens representatives and local policing authorities' in an exercise themed Walk Against Crime, which is part of the Stand Against Crime project.

Pupils leading the Walk Against Crime, placards processions are pupils who have attended the Valued Citizens Initiative's six month leadership programme named iCHOOSE To Change A Life, which is a project of stand against crime.

According to Valued Citizens Initiative, a recent study by the Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention shows that 15,3percent of South African pupils - accounting for more than 1,8 million children - experience some form of violence at school, thus making the Stand Against Crime project a welcome initiative aimed at creating safer, more positive schools.

According to the Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention, over the past few years, South African schools have suffered numerous crime incidents, including stabbings, bullying and physical abuse, with young people aged between 12 and 22 being victimised two times as much as adults.

Valued Citizens Initiative managing director Carole Podetti Ngoni said at the weekend that three more schools were due to join the campaign this year, with a view of increasing the number of participating schools next year.

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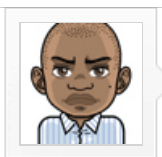
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KhosanXX

31 MAY 2011

Great initiative- but, it must be back up with jobs for the youngest. In a vacuum of self dignity crime flourish and even the most moral of people succumb to the pressure.

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Are_U_Sure

31 MAY 2011

KhosanXX, truer words has not be spoken, or is that typed? :-)

The solution to the job problem lies in the medium to small business sectors to generate the jobs for these youngsters. Big business can only do so much.

Problem is that most small businesses cannot afford the new regulations and in having to abide by all the new labour laws, create a substantial overhead if one can barely afford to pay salaries.

Corporates can handle these increased overheads, the informal sector, where I believe the most abuse against workers are taking place, is not regulated and therefor these workers are abused the most causing government to create more laws to regulate employment resulting in more overheads causing less employment.

If the unions start seeing that they need to look after the employer, medium to small business, as much as they need to look after the employee, to protect the business for the greater good of all being employed in said business, I am firmly of the belief that quite a few jobs will open up miraculously all over SA.

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