



GAUTENG PROVINCE

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

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SUBSTANCE ABUSE, HOMELESSNESS, URBAN HUNGER ARE SOME OF PRIORITY AREAS FOR GAUTENG GOVERNMENT

Gauteng Premier, Panyaza Lesufi, has thanked thousands of parents and caregivers for their effort to take a stand and fight the illicit abuse of drugs, particularly Nyaope in the province.

Speaking during his maiden State of the Province Address (SOPA) at Gauteng City Hall last week, the Premier echoed that nyaope was on the verge of wiping out an entire generation.

“As our leader, the late Oliver Reginald Tambo, once said *“A country, a movement, a person that does not value its youth and children doesn't deserve its future”*, said Lesufi.

He added, “By next month, through our treatment and aftercare service, we will have reached out to over 75 000 young people who were using drugs. We are now expanding our farm in Cullinan at Dr Fabian & Florence Ribeiro Treatment Centre and other drug facilities with an additional 1 351 new beds.”

In the fight against homelessness in the province, Lesufi said the provincial government has a system in place to support and care for the homeless.

“To date, we have relocated almost 3 000 homeless people and we are giving them meals, medical support, clothing, and shelter. We are putting systems to prepare to give them support during the coming winter season.”

“Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) received more than R2 billion from the provincial government. With this amount of funding, we should be impactful in the fight against social ills. However, this sector, not all of it, is riddled with squabbles and accounting irregularities. We are now appointing an independent audit team to audit all our NPOs and redirect them to the new mandate of our

provincial government. Our mandate is simple, care for the elderly, the vulnerable and the poor,” said the Premier.

He also spoke about mitigating urban hunger and that over R64million has been set aside for food parcels, especially for people in poverty-stricken communities.

“In the current financial year, Gauteng has contributed R26million for the dignity packs programme. Our dignity packs include a bar of soap, toothpaste, deodorant, body lotion, toilet roll, sanitary towel, facecloth, and toothbrush. We truly care for our weak and vulnerable society,” added Lesufi.

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Issued by the Gauteng Department of Social Development

For media enquiries contact Nkosana Mtolo, Spokesperson for the MEC of Gauteng Department Social Development, Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment on 0767648442 or email Nkosana.Mtolo@gauteng.go.za