

Municipalities launch Local Drug Action Committees (LDAC)

Department of Social Development is mandated by Prevention of and Treatment for Substance Abuse Act 70 of 2008 to facilitate the establishment of LDACs in the Municipalities to enhance prevention and treatment of substance abuse and illicit drug trafficking services effectively.

LDACs are the structures at the local level which coordinates and report the activities implemented by stakeholders from different government departments, the private sector, NGO's and FBO's sectors, with the aim of prevention and combating of substance abuse and illicit drug trafficking within the municipalities. They also meant to give effect to the National Drug Master Plan.

These committees are made up of bodies/people from all sectors involved in substance abuse and related social ills in the Municipalities. Such stakeholders include among others, Justice, Police, Probation and Correctional Services, Education (Schools), Health, Sports, Arts and Culture, Social Development and Community Structures' officials.

Local authorities develop and maintain integrated drug policies in collaboration with all stakeholders in order to prevent drug-related crime and ensure quality of life for residents at the community level. The LDACs ensure that local action is taken in terms of the National Drug Master Plan (NDMP) in each community.

Achievements:

To date, eight (8) Local Drug Action Committees have been established in terms of Act 70 of 2008 throughout the Province. Letsemeng LDAC in Xhariep, Dihlabeng LDAC in Thabo Mofutsanyana, Tokologo LDAC in Lejweleputswa, Moqhaka in Fezile Dabi, Matjhabeng LDAC in Lejweleputswa, Setsoto LDAC in the Thabo Mofutsanyana, Mangaung LDAC in Mangaung and Maluti-A-Phofung LDAC in Thabo Mofutsanyana. Department has a plan in place to facilitate the establishment of 3 LDACs each financial year until all Municipalities have at least one LDAC as per requirement of the Act.

Three (3) main events lead by these committees were held in June 2016 to commemorate International Day Against Substance Abuse and Illicit Drug Trafficking. These events were held in Welkom (Bronville), Sasolburg and QwaQwa. Both children, youth and adults were reached during these events where the awareness was raised on the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse. People were made aware of the available treatment services for those who want to quit including their significant others. Communities were also encouraged to participate in the activities which are meant to reduce supply of drugs to the communities, reduce demand of drugs by communities' members and reduce harm caused by drugs to our people and families.

These 3 events lead the Department to over achieve in its quarterly targets reaching 9205 children in the 1st Quarter only, which is above the Quarterly target of 3775 children targeted through prevention services. The Department further reached 3818 youth which was above the Quarterly target of 2220 youth.