

## **MEN'S FORUM**

Men's Forum have an important role to play in reversing gender-based inequality and violence, and also to become advocates for issues affecting men in societies and to afford men a chance to engage and do self-introspection concerning their role in society.

Social ills such as gangsterism, gender-based violence, and other problems affects the communities negatively. The department of Social Development, has as one of its mandates, to aid the progression of the forums. This year the department hosted several dialogues where they discuss, among other issues, the factors that drives the violence in our communities, the negative role of drugs and alcohol in the community and also come up effective intervention to these issues.

Furthermore, the Free State Department of Social Development commended Mr Gustav Wilson for winning the South African Man of the Year 2016. Mr Wilson, Department of Correctional Services Regional Head: Development and Care; Free State and Northern Cape Region, was nominated for the award as a result of the work he does in the Mangaung community. Wilson has been running projects such as poverty alleviation, drug awareness, and crime prevention as well as counselling drug addicts at schools and transferring them to professional counsellors.

The awards were hosted by the National and Gauteng Departments of Social Department in partnership with the South African Men's Forum. The main aim of the South African men of the year awards is to acknowledge South African men who are community investors and builders in different industries and fields.