

## **Teenage Pregnancy Dialogues—Thaba Nchu**

Poverty, unemployment, teenage pregnancy, maternal and child mortality are some of the issues that are currently affecting our South African population. The population unit within the Department of Social Development is now focused on coming up with programmes on how to curb these problems, and fighting teenage pregnancy is a top priority for them this year.

On the 22nd of August the unit held dialogues on teenage pregnancy at Thaba Nchu which was attended by youth in and out of school, particularly youth from the Trusts. “The directorate specifically focused on the Trust areas because young people from these rural areas do not get enough information as those staying in cities”. said Ms Monimang Mohapi, who is the Manager, Population Development.



***Ms Monimang Mohapi - Manager, Population Development Development***

Some of the issues the youth identified as contributing factors to teenage pregnancy are: peer pressure, poverty, substance abuse, lack of information, bad decisions and lack of respect for the elderly. “We need to stop being so ignorant and start realising that having unprotected sex may lead to pregnancy or even worse contracting HIV, and stop blaming it on poverty and peer pressure”, said Ms Relebogile Modiri from Phethogang School.

A huge word of thanks goes to the Departments of Health and Education as well as Free State Network on Violence Against Women for the informative presentations they gave. But above all a huge thank you goes to all socdev officials and youth clubs for playing such a huge role in ensuring that this event became a success.