



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

Ministry of Health and Social Services

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PRESS RELEASE AND MEDIA INVITATION

**COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST
DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING, 26 JUNE 2018**

Namibia will join the rest of the world to commemorate the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on Tuesday, 26 June 2018. This year's event will be celebrated under the theme, "*Listen First: Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe.*"

Health is the ongoing theme of the world drug campaign. Creating awareness on the dangers of drug abuse in society and its effect on behaviour change is an integral part of the programmes of the line Ministry responsible for the provision of health and social welfare services.

The devastating impact is felt in individuals, families, communities, criminal justice systems, as well as across the entire society. What can the Namibian society do?

In reference to the theme, we call upon the church leaders, school communities and youth organizations, to increase the efforts of promoting healthy lifestyles amongst the youth. Alternative activities such as sports, debates, drama and other fun activities should be organized to help the youth, to stay away from the use of alcohol and drugs substances.

The Ministry further calls upon parents and community leaders to be good role models and empower young people to deal with life challenges, without the consumption of drugs. Furthermore, the Ministry pleads to responsible business persons not to sell drugs and alcohol to children

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under the age of 18 years; as the use of alcohol and drugs amongst the young people leads to criminal activities and early school dropouts; which negatively impacts their individual lives, their families and the country at large.

All residents of the Republic of Namibia are urged to come forth and partner with the Ministry of Health and Social Services, to volunteer and support rehabilitation programmes, in order to increase access to information for affected individuals and communities.

I would therefore like to call upon the media as social partners, to provide media coverage; as well as attending the press conference, scheduled to take place as follows:

Date: Monday, 25 June 2018

Time: 10h00

Venue: Minister's Boardroom, 1st floor, Ministerial Building, Harvey Street, Windhoek West

For enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the Directorate: Social Welfare Services, at the following contact details:

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Your attendance and coverage is relied upon and sincerely appreciated.

Issued by:


MS. PETRONELLA MASABANE
ACTING PERMANENT SECRETARY

