

Young women get life skills

'We want to make them ambassadors of change'

ELFAS TORERAI

YOUNG women from the Dr Kenneth Kaunda and Dr Ruth Mompati districts were given life skills to help them succeed in a world full of challenges.

The North West Provincial Council on AIDS and Soul City have partnered to give life skills to females between the ages of 15 and 24 so that they help fight teenage pregnancies, substance abuse and also prevent HIV-Aids infections.

The workshop was held at Taung Mmabona under the theme Rise Young Women, Rise.

Organisers pointed out that it was imperative for young women to form clubs so that they can share experiences and how to go about in a society faced with many challenges.

Provincial coordinator for Soul City Refentse Moeketsi said: "The purpose of the gathering was to launch young women clubs at different communities and also to train them on leadership skills and how to positively and courageously face life challenges with confidence.

"We used the opportunity to also celebrate young women for keeping their heads high even in the face of adversity," Moeketsi said. "We want to make them ambassadors of change in their different communities so that they become agents of goodwill."

Boitumelo Mokalleng, 18, from Ala-



EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN: Segomotso Manhe from the provincial Aids council addresses young women at the Mmabana Taung auditorium.

bama Combined School in Jouberton, said she was excited to have been part of the programme.

"This will capacitate us so that we are able to stand for what is good.

"I will share the experience acquired here with other young women in my community.

"This I hope will go a long way in addressing issues such as child abuse, substance abuse and teenage pregnan-

cies that are affecting society," she said.

Another participant, Kedientse Gill, a parent and teacher at Thapama Secondary School in Taung, said the initiative will help young women to be self-reliant both at school and in society.

"It is our responsibility as parents and teachers to continue supporting young women to become better people and encourage them to share their experience with others at their different

communities," she said.

Soul City provincial manager Mpho Mogapi indicated that they had already launched young women clubs in Ngaka Modiri Molema and Bojanala Districts.

Mogapi added that the main objective was to see to it that young women are being provided with skills to become agents of changes in their communities and schools.

elfast@thenewage.co.za