

Drinking holes objectify women

Sibongile Mashaba

DRINKING holes are generally unsafe for women and the music played there is demeaning to them.

Soul City Institute Eastern Cape manager Thoko Budaza made the submission during the release of a study into the link between alcohol and HIV among young women in the country.

"Immediately when a woman enters a shebeen, even the music is against you ... There is [kwaito musician] L'vovo Derrango who says 'we will package *amantombazane* (women). [It means] we are going to drink and take girls home. Already that space says you are meat ... we are taking you home," said Budaza, adding the musician's *Palesa* song was also demeaning to women.

She said simple things like ladies night could be interpreted as though women do not have money. "It means

we need you here because the men will come and spend on you," said Budaza.

She said #zirightigals was trending during the festive season but was not really given much thought. "For me it meant we know you don't have money and we need to make sure [as men] that you [women] ni right [are taken care of]." L'vovo yesterday said he would not comment on old songs. "They are long gone. I am doing new things now," he said.

Budaza added: "Immediately [when] young women enter drinking spaces, they lose the protection of society... When something happens to young women in those spaces, we ask 'what were they doing there'."

Dr Leane Ramsoomar-Hariparsaad, who compiled the report, said statistics show that there were more HIV positive women aged between 14 and 24, compared to men in the same age group.

