

DSACR HOSTS RURAL SPORT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN PHUTHADITJHABA

This year marks the 46th anniversary of the 16 June 1976 student uprising. Youth Day commemorates the Soweto youth uprising of 16 June 1976. The day is about paying tribute to the learners who sacrificed and laid down their lives fighting for freedom and the right to equal education.

The 2022 National Youth Month and Youth Day was celebrated under the theme: 'promoting sustainable livelihoods and resilience of young people for a better tomorrow'.

The Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, in partnership with the Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality, Maluti A Phofung Local Municipality, Free State House of Traditional Leaders, Netball, Football and Athletics Federations hosted a sports day with the youth of Phuthaditjhaba in Qwaqwa to commemorate Youth Day.

The Rural Sport Development programme was aimed at developing sport and providing a platform for the youth in that area to showcase their talents in various sporting codes such as netball and football. The Rural Sport Development programme that was launched nationally in 2016 is focused on areas that are under Traditional Leadership.

The day started with a fun walk from Tsheseng Shopping Centre to Thibella Outdoor Sport Centre where all the other activities, including indigenous games and aerobics took place.

In her keynote address the Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Mrs Limakatso Mahasa pleaded with the youth to stay away from drugs and alcohol. Mrs Mahasa further encouraged young people to stay in school and use opportunities and programs such as this one to keep themselves occupied. "We all know that an idle mind is the devil's workshop. Many of you end up misbehaving because you have too much time in your hands. Use your time wisely and turn the negative energy into positive energy and be the change that you want to see in your community", stated Mrs Mahasa.

The MEC also used her address as an opportunity to educate the young people gathered at Thibella Outdoor Sports Centre about the significance of June 16. "There are people who died for you to enjoy the freedom that you are enjoying today. The youth of 1976 did not have it easy. They went to school under very difficult conditions and many of those young people gave up on their dreams because the conditions were not favourable. Don't let their sacrifices be in vain", the MEC concluded.