

ZRP embarks on drug and substance abuse campaigns

The Zimbabwe Republic Police has stepped up its effort to fight drug and substance abuse through embarking on massive awareness campaigns to educate communities on the dangers of taking crystal methamphetamine, bronchia, marijuana, cocaine and heroin, among other harmful drugs.

Led by the Criminal Investigation Department's Drugs and Narcotics Section, the campaign was officially launched by the Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution for Harare Province, represented by Acting Permanent Secretary, Ms Sipwe Nyamatore at Yamuranai Primary School in Mufakose high density suburb. On the following day, the mobile campaign team reached out to Harare Central Business District, Mbare, Chitungwiza and Epworth suburbs.

The campaign brought together various stakeholders who were all in agreement that child delinquency is now a societal problem affecting

—By Staff Reporter—

many youths. In his remarks, the minister acknowledged that drug abuse is a growing public health problem in Zimbabwe, that is linked to violence, accidents and other psychological and mental health challenges.

"Our health services department reports that approximately 60 percent of patients in health institutions suffer due to drug related problems. The scourge continues to claim precious lives of our people, and that includes the able-bodied men and women with a potential of steering national development," he said.

The minister urged youths to take seriously the campaign messages, and also reminded elders to uphold their parental roles in protecting the children by making sure they shun drug and substance abuse. He also encouraged police to continue with such campaigns and consistently remind youths on the dangers of such practices.

"The role of police in this trajectory can never be under estimated. There is no doubt if we had no strong police force, like our ZRP, we could be a drug infested nation by now. Let's compliment the efforts of our police in the fight against drug abuse. I challenge the police to arrest without fear or favour all drug peddlers in order to effectively remove them from society," he said.

The Officer Commanding Police, in Harare Province, Commissioner Wonder Tembo said the campaign was just a beginning. He pointed out that police will be deployed in full force to account for all those involved in illicit drug dealings as the war against drug and substance abuse gathers momentum.

"Given that the drug and substance abuse probe has turned to become a driver of crime, violence and other vices; our goal in this crusade is nothing less than the attainment of a drug-free generation. Let me say, as Police, our stand in the fight against the scourge of drug



Harare CID Drugs and Narcotics officers conduct a road show campaign against drug and substance abuse in Harare.