



EVERY BOY CHILD MATTERS

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE BOY CHILD



BOYS WARNED AGAINST COMMITTING CRIME

BY PHINDILE NGWENYA
Mbabane

Eswatini Legal Aid Director, Lungile Magagula, has advised young boys to desist from intentionally committing crimes with the confidence that they would receive free legal representation in court from government.

She said this in commemoration of the International Day of the Boy Child in an event held at Lobamba Lomdzala Inkundla last Friday in partnership with Young Heroes.

She had been highlighting this in line with the importance of discussing issues affecting boys and their relevance to the law as she said in most instances they find themselves having to deal with the law. She said, for example, in gender-based violence issues, boys would be the main perpetrators even though females also abuse the males. She said the boys needed to understand this at a very tender age to avoid criminal activity and be well acquainted with the law.

She said the aim was to curb criminal activities than promoting it and added that the boys must not abuse the power and government support of Legal Aid.

"It is in many sectors where the boy child may be involved with the law. At times they are tempted to take what does not belong to them," she said.

She believes more campaigns reach-



Eswatini Legal Aid Director Lungile Magagula addressing the boys under Lobamba Lomdzala Inkundla.

ing the boy child would contribute a great deal towards improving their life from a tender age.

Also present was Lobamba Lomdzala Indvuna Yenkundla, Sihle Dlamini, who expressed gratitude to the two institutions, stating that most organisations would be addressing the girl child almost all the time when they visit the constituency.

He believes this is one reason why male children lack in most aspects of life.

Dlamini noted that ignoring the male child also led to mischievous behaviours. Most recently they witnessed two young boys arguing, and one of them stabbed the other



Young Heroes Executive Director Khulekani Magongo.

to death at Lobamba. He believes such engagements would also boost the sense of belonging and make

them feel important in the country as well. He said some male children were fatherless with no male figure in their life.

At Lobamba Lomdzala Constituency many boys have absent fathers, leaving them with no one to engage them on health issues while they grow up.

He stated that men lacked an interest in visiting health centres in general. Dlamini added that the area was a hot spot for crime, making it an ideal location to engage with boys and address pressing issues. He hopes fathers would also make an effort in creating the platform for education of the boy child like it happened back in the day.

60 boys partake in Day of the Boy Child at Lobamba

A total of 60 boys between the ages of 10 and 17 participated in the commemoration of 'Day of the Boy Child' by Young Heroes and Eswatini Legal Aid at Lobamba Lomdzala Constituency last Friday.

The sessions focused on the physical, emotional, mental, and social growth of boys.

Young Heroes Executive Director Khulekani Magongo said the commemoration served as a platform to promote positive masculinity, gender equality, education, health, and overall holistic development for boys.

"Recognising the significance of this

day, we believe that dialogues, collaborations, and action on these important issues is critical," said Magongo.

He also believes the Day of the Boy Child entails the focus and reflection on how children grow physically, emotionally, mentally and socially.

He said the commemoration also inspired discussions and actions that contribute to the wellbeing and development of boys. The objective of this day, according to Magongo, is to foster discussions on issues affecting boys as well as highlighting matters that also have a bearing on the law.

According to Magongo, by high-

lighting matters such as GBV and HIV/AIDS, the Day of the Boy Child sought to create a space for dialogue and action to protect the rights and well-being of boys within the community.

"The inaugural celebration of the International Day of the Boy Child marks a significant milestone in Eswatini, as it brings attention to the unique challenges faced by boys and the importance of their holistic development," he said. He believes the day should serve as a reminder that every child, regardless of gender, deserves equal opportunities and support for

their growth and well-being.

The theme of the commemoration this year was 'Positive male role models'.

Magongo believes that all projects or programmes should remain inclusive and empower boys to realise their potential and be cognisant of their rights and where to access different socio-economic services in the country. He stated that Young Heroes would continue offering primary prevention of sexual violence and HIV in girls and boys aged 10 to 14 at household level to increase their health and risk awareness.



Boys who participated in the Day of the Boy Child commemoration at Lobamba Lomdzala Constituency.

TODAY IS

BY Thalane Dlamini
Mbabane

You are strong, capable, and full of potential.

Just like a superhero, you have incredible things inside you waiting to be discovered. Maybe you're great at sports, have a knack for fixing things, or are a whiz with computers. Maybe you love to draw, write stories, or make people laugh. Whatever it is, don't be afraid to explore your talents and chase your dreams. Remember, being a boy means you can be kind, sensitive, and express yourself however you feel. It's okay to ask for help when you need it, and it's okay to cry sometimes. There are people who care about you and want to see you succeed.

To all the boy children in Eswatini have a fantastic day, and remember, the world needs your unique awesomeness! - Noxolo Portia Mgabhi



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