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COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

FATHERHOOD (CARING FOR MOTHER AND BABY)



The community Conservation on Fatherhood hosted at Biko sports ground focused on building men to take an active, responsible, and supportive role in both parenting, Caring for Mother and Baby. The conversation brought together community members and stakeholders, including a psychologist from the local hospital and members from the South African Police Service (SAPS), to guide discussions on fatherhood, raising kids as parents who stay under one roof or separated, and child development.



Understanding Fatherhood in Today's Society

The session began by reflecting on how fatherhood has evolved over time. In the past, it was common for men to have multiple wives, but today, family structures have changed. However, some challenges still remain, particularly when men have children from different relationships whereby they all need his love.

The discussion highlighted that children need the presence, love, and support of their fathers, regardless of the circumstances of their birth. At the same time, it was acknowledged that relationships can become complicated when introducing children from previous relationships into a new household.



Participants discussed the emotional pressures faced by men, including:

- Difficulty balancing responsibilities between current partners and children from previous relationships
- Conflict when partners struggle to accept children from outside the relationship
- Lack of communication between partners about these sensitive issues

The psychologist emphasized that **open and honest communication is key**. Couples were encouraged to sit down, discuss these matters respectfully, and avoid forcing decisions or using authority in a way that creates more conflict.

Communication of parents and Seeking Support

It was also highlighted that many challenges arise when men enter new relationships without disclosing that they have children. This often leads to misunderstandings and conflict later on.

In situations where:

- A partner refuses to accept children from a previous relationship
- A parent is denied access to their children
- There is ongoing conflict between families

Participants were encouraged to seek assistance from social workers and relevant support services to find solutions that prioritize the well-being of the child.

Parenting and Child Development

The conversation also focused on the importance of **active fatherhood in raising children**. The psychologist explained that discipline should not only focus on punishment, but also on guidance, presence, and emotional support.

Key points included:

- Fathers should be present and involved in their children's lives from an early age
- Teaching children the difference between right and wrong helps prevent future behavioral problems
- Regular communication with children helps parents understand their struggles early

Negative behaviors in children often have underlying causes that need to be understood. Participants were encouraged to **talk to their children, guide them, and support them**, rather than relying only on harsh punishment.

SAPS emphasizing the issue of rising of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases

Sgt. Mkansi (SAPS) addressed the issue of Gender-Based Violence, reminding participants that violence is never a solution to family or relationship challenges.

Men were encouraged to:

- Avoid engaging in any form of violence
- Report cases of abuse without fear

Understand that support services are available for everyone, including men. The officer also emphasized that **disciplining children does not mean harming them**, and that responsible parenting involves protection, care, and guidance.

Major lessons from the Community Conservation:

- Fatherhood requires responsibility, presence, and emotional support
- Children need both care and guidance from their fathers
- Communication between partners is essential in raising children in a family of no violence.
- As a man of the house seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness, some kids' conduct is a sign of certain diseases that need early medical attention.
- Violence should never be used as a form of running a family or disciplining of children.

Conclusion

The Fatherhood Community Conservation held on 17 March 2026 provided valuable insights into the responsibilities of men as partners and fathers. By promoting communication, understanding, and support, Khumbhekani Victim Empowerment continues to strengthen families and build healthier communities.

“A present father builds a strong child and a stronger future.”



Thank you for going

through our newsletter... “YOUR PAIN IS OUR CONCERN!”

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ANNOUNCEMENTS :
COMMUNITY CONSERVATION
DATE: 26 MARCH 2026
VENUE: TOWNSHIP, LULEKANI
TIME: 10H00