

KOPANONG RENOVATES HALL FOR YOUTH RECREATION ACTIVITIES

February 15, 2013

Kopanong Local Municipality Ward 5 councillor, Selaocoe Sola, has urged young people within the municipality to take part in sporting activities in order to avoid getting caught up in criminal activities.

The municipality has attached great significance to the development of young people and it is therefore assisting with formation of sporting groups. To this effect, the municipality has kick-started renovations costing more than R70 000 to three halls in a bid to boost the youth's participation in recreational activities.

The three vandalised halls are in Springfontein and Phillipolis; and the revamping is nearing completion. The renovation work involves replacement of ceilings, toilet, doors and window frames and the cleaning of walls.

Sola said he met with the municipality's youth development officer, Nomkhitha Mthatha, to draft a proposal outlining how the youth will be assisted, and refurbishing the halls is part of this programme.

"We realised that many young people in our areas are blessed with different talents, but do not have the opportunity or platform to nurture and develop these God-given aptitudes. Even though we are fortunate not to be troubled by violent riots which might result in destruction of municipal properties, we still believe these halls were vandalised by our own people."

Sola credited the municipality with keeping residents up to date with its programmes and projects.

"We only need to work harder to ensure that we keep our people happy because their anger and possible destruction of property would reflect badly on the municipality and the entire community."

A Springfontein community member, Agnes Ramosiya, told The Weekly during a visit to the township this week that she and her friends used to have a dance group, but it collapsed due to lack of funding and the group had no place to practice or perform.

"I am excited about the renovation of our hall now. I believe the groups will be revived. My younger sister is already looking forward to using it for her dance practice sessions; she is a good dancer who needs support to showcase her talent."

The Maphodi Hall, which was built in 1997 in Springfontein, is two weeks from completion and will be used for community meetings; church services and youth development activities.

The Kopanong Local Municipality community service manager, Eric Mqunquthu, urged the community to take care of the hall as it was built for them.

"The municipality will not be using the hall except for our meetings with the community. It belongs to them and they have to care for it. People should also understand that the municipality cannot afford to spend money fixing one problem over and over again, because there are other community who need to be attended to.

"We will help young people form groups that will enable them to showcase their talents and keep them out of trouble," said Mqunquthu.

[Source: www.theweekly.co.za]