



The SRHR Bulletin

Your Sexual Health Matters



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Editors's Note	1
Edutainment real value in SRHR Awareness Campaigns	2
Communities change attitude towards SRHR subject	3
SRHR project brings hope for Umzingwane youths	4
Councillors, health practitioners commit to solve SRHR challenges	5
'A little help can save a girl child's life'	6
Matobo youth in donate a pad drive	6
Youth Voices on the state of SRHR Services	7
Did You Know?	8

Editor's Note

Dear Reader

Since the beginning of the year, CYDT has been conducting Sexual Reproductive Health Rights sensitisation activities after realising the lack of sexual health care services in Gwanda, Umzingwane and Matobo Districts. In these activities, the organisation engaged young people, councillors, health practitioners and parents to develop creative strategies to improve the state of SRHR in the targeted areas.

Some activities were conducted at Sky Metro FM as a way of observing social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID 19. Some of the activities conducted include the voice up community engagements and SRHR advocacy training. These activities gave young people a chance to learn about SRHR as well as share their SRHR challenges to the duty bearers.

After all this work, it is the organisation's pleasure to present to you this newsletter which shows the impact of these SRHR activities to young people and the stakeholders. This issues covers local leaders commitment to support SRHR initiatives; donate a

pad campaign by our board chairperson Zanele Nyathi as well as the impact of the project on Umzingwane women.

We also explore the importance of edutainment in raising SRHR awareness; Our partnerships with local artistes in raising awareness on SRHR and youth voices on the state of SRHR services in their communities.

I hope this Issue will inspire young people to reflect on their situation in the communities and demand these rights. The commitment by some leaders brings hope that more will join the campaign and transform societies through creating a better environment that promotes sexual reproductive health.

Happy reading...

Bongie!

E-mail: cydtmatsouth@gmail.com

Contact No: +263 842821711



Cydt MatSouth



@CydtMat

Visit our website: www.cydt.org.zw

Edutainment real value in SRHR

Awareness Campaigns



The road to winning a young person's mind change perception is not a stroll in the park and needs what lures them closer, entertainment.

From fun shows such as Madlela Sikhobekhobo music concert to road shows, youths require an environment where they can freely sing, dance, talk and laugh instead of an environment where they are forced to keep quiet and listen for longer periods of time.

Unfortunately, in most cases, activities or programs that seek to enrich young people with crucial knowledge about their own lives are rarely fun-oriented. Usually these activities take place in an atmosphere that can be compared to that of a classroom environment. As a result, these activities suffer low turnouts.

The crumbling state of the education sector especially in rural areas where pupils have to travel long distances around 20 kilometers to and from school has pushed many to dislike going to school. The problem is worse for organisations as compared to schools in that at school, young people are forced to attend classes or face punishment while organisations like CYDT have no jurisdiction to force young people to attend its activities.

To creatively deal with the challenge, CYDT has effectively adopted the edutainment strategy in the implementation of its SRHR roadshow activities. Edutainment in its simplicity is both

educational and entertainment centred. When excellently executed, the approach easily grabs young people's attention. It allows youths to easily glide through the SRHR material without even realising that they are learning and acquiring crucial information about their sexual health and with that in mind, the organisation has been teaming up with Matabeleland South artistes to galvanise and electrify action to significantly improve the availability of and access to Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR).

Some of the artistes that have joined CYDT's SRHR campaign include rapper Sbhevara, Kwaito musicians Khoi Khoi and Kadder. Roping in local artistes in the execution of SRHR roadshows has proved fruitful as it has brought in exuberance and vibrancy during these activities which is exactly the atmosphere that is needed by young people.

With the presence of their favorite artistes and the need to freshen their minds in these troubling times of COVID 19, youths came in numbers to listen, dance and interact during the SRHR roadshows activities that have been carried out so far something which is difficult to achieve if the activities had no entertainment.

While observing all COVID-19 protocols, both community seniors and the youth came close to listen as well as share their own SRHR challenges and recommendations they need to be taken into consideration.

Communities change attitude towards SRHR subject

Communities in Matabeleland South province are slowly changing their perspective on communicating about Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) which many young people have challenges on.

These include and are not limited to the failure to access contraceptives, sanitary wear and shortage of clinics in Matabeleland South. The rainbow province is still in an era where community elders, leaders and parents are heavily influenced by traditional beliefs and norms where the subject of SRHR has been viewed as a taboo.

The topic has of the past not being able to have interactions between the elderly and young people up until there are ready for marriage. However, the ongoing SRHR project being spearheaded by CYDT in Umzingwane, Gwanda and Matobo Districts has gradually changed the attitude of these community seniors for the better.

Parents, traditional and community leaders are committing to support young people. Parents are pledging to find ways to communicate with their children while community leaders are coming forward to speak against sexual abuse and the lack of access to sexual reproductive health rights.

Recently, Umzingwane youths revealed that their parents have started advising them about taking care of themselves as there are sexual transmitted diseases that could jeopardise their future. They no longer view the subject as taboo. Councillor of Gwanda Ward 9, Thulani Moyo pledged to tell other leaders about SRHR as well as continue to engage other stakeholders to discuss SRHR issues; find ways to improve access to SRHR such as the development of clinics and hospitals.

Councillor of Matobo Ward 7, Sitshengiseni Ndlovu also committed to support young people. The councillor said that as parents and leaders they must find ways to communicate with their children.

Other councillors who have committed to improve the state of SRHR include Cllr Elijah Nkala of Ward 5 in UMzingwane District. This is a positive change and reaction from community leaders as their positions and power is needed to improve access to and availability of SRHR in the province.

It is also important to note that these community leaders are also denouncing traditional practices that affects sexual reproductive health rights of young girls such as early marriages. Constant engaging in the issue is vital to keep the momentum up and realise the end goals of the interactions.

In the beginning of the year, the Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT) embarked on critical Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) Need Assessment activities that helped expose the dire SRHR adversities experienced by Matabeleland South young people especially girls.

These need analysis activities that formed the basis of the subsequent SRHR activities revealed that young people lacked SRHR information which resulted in girls engaging in unsafe sexual practices while others failed to report sexual abuse cases due to limited knowledge about the existing institutions which they can use to report their cases without fear of being treated badly or caught by their perpetrators.

They also have marginal knowledge on the responsible authorities to hold accountable when facing SRHR challenges. Some of the

causes of these SRHR challenges was a result of lack of media coverage in some remote areas and the digital divide problem in which majority of the population does not own smartphones to access SRHR information on the internet.

The trainings of SRHR Community Champions that followed in the three targeted areas namely Umzingwane, Gwanda and Matobo Districts have resulted in a chain of positive reactions from the press especially the mainstream press. Mainstream media houses which includes the *Chronicle* and *Newsday* have brought into awareness these essential SRHR activities being carried out by CYDT.

They have reported on the SRHR trainings conducted and explained the importance of conducting these activities in the largely marginalised communities of Matabeleland South. In a story published by *Newsday* on 20 March 2021, the headline read "Mat South teen pregnancies blamed on rights ignorance" while in the story published by the *Chronicle* on 4 April 2021, the headline read "Gwanda partner CYDT for sexual health campaign", both these stories brought into light the importance of CYDT SRHR trainings and the strategies adopted to reach-out to a larger audience.

Other media houses that reported on CYDT SRHR activities include the *Ilanga* which also brought into awareness CYDT's SRHR activities in a story that read "CYDT engages local artistes on awareness programmes" published on 5 April 2021.

This is a huge success of the project as it is attracting media houses in the fight for the availability of and access to SRHR in the targeted areas. The media is a powerful and critical tool needed for the dissemination of SRHR issues especially in the remote areas of Mat South that are massively affected by the lack of SRHR knowledge and information, therefore, the fact that this project is already attracting a number of media houses across the country is commendable and a step in the right direction.

CYDT SRHR activities provoke a positive press reaction

SRHR project brings hope for Umzingwane youths



The youths acknowledged that for significant change to take place, they also must be central players in SRHR advocacy initiatives which is the reason they are grabbing the opportunity being presented by the CYDT SRHR project with both hands. The youths boldly claimed that they have the potential to tackle these SRHR challenges and advance sexual and reproductive rights in their communities.

One youth said, "Young people are best positioned to represent the reality of the challenges they face and offer valuable solutions. "The collective power of youth voices is imperative for positive change in today`s politics. Therefore they are uniting to create lasting change and build the kind of world that they desire," added the youth.

According to young people, epidemics, outbreaks and natural disasters are inevitable, and beyond their control, but the barriers to sexual health and

Umzingwane District youths have given thumbs up to the Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) project being partly conducted in their community as it has positively changed the attitude of community leaders and seniors who for a long time have not been confident enough to discuss about SRHR issues.

Young people told the Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT) that since the initiation of the project early this year, their parents are starting to give them tips on sexual intercourse issues. One youth said,

"Even though my parents are not completely comfortable speaking with me about sex, they are now trying. "They advise me indirectly but I will be understanding what they are trying to say. It makes me happy."

Another youth commented about the SRHR radio programs that were broadcast on Skyz Metro FM, citing that she "was emotionally moved when she heard councillors pledging to support young girls so that they have full access to their sexual reproductive health care services." The youths explained that it was imperative that as young people they understand that each one of them has a right to make decisions concerning their sexuality, sexual privacy and pleasure.

In a world where sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS and gender based violence are high among women, the youths indicated that activities like the SRHR awareness campaign gives hope that a world where equal rights, good health and a better life is still possible. They claimed that the SRHR challenges there are currently facing have been presented to the duty bearers. These include harmful social norms, discrimination, violations of their privacy and outright denial sexual health care services.

reproductive rights are mostly man-made and if given the opportunity to learn about their rights and exercise them, they can be effective advocates for their own rights.

There is need to create more enabling environments and have a more holistic approach, to tackle sexual and gender-based violence, sexual diversity, discrimination, relationship issues, and fears and concerns about sex and sexuality.

Educating platforms give the participants an opportunity to exercise their sexual and reproductive health rights, and in turn, put them into practice. Seeing that, Young Women's Alliance in partnership with Community Youth Development Trust have a role to play in promoting good health and well-being among vulnerable and marginalised groups of Umzingwane District.

Edutainment real value in SRHR Awareness Campaigns

...From page 1

Local artistes' reaction to the call by CYDT to be part of its various SRHR campaigns is heartwarming and appreciated. Their participation is imperative. Not only do artistes increase audience numbers during SRHR activities, but they also increase participation of people from different geographical locations due to their large following on social media.

Notable media houses like The Chronicle and Newsday have been drawn close for coverage in these activities that feature the likes of Kadder who is an award winning kwaito artiste. Besides serenading the participants, these artistes also share words on encouragement and support to young people; warning them about the importance of understanding their SRHR.

Councillors, health practitioners commit to solve SRHR challenges



Clr. Thulani Moyo



Clr. Sitshengisiwe Ndlovu

Various stakeholders have embraced the ongoing Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) activities that are being conducted by CYDT in Gwanda, Matobo and UMzingwane Districts. The Councillors and health practitioners in those areas of jurisdiction have taken part in the activities that have been carried out so far.

They have expressed their desire to prioritise SRHR issues in their respective communities. Gwanda Ward 9 Councillor Thulani Moyo said the situation on ground is wanting in terms of girl child access to sanitary wear. "The failure to access sanitary wear has led young people to use tree leaves that end up having a negative effect on their health causing diseases like cancer. "Hence it is imperative that as leaders we start taking SRHR issues seriously to save lives," said Clr Moyo.

He also said,

"Young girls are suffering as a result of the bad state of the economy. Health centres are not enough, and the one available is incapacitated to cater for every youth in Gwanda. We are currently engaging other stakeholders, trying to identify ways of improving young people's lives. "As community leaders we will improve the health sector. We realise the urgent need to address issues to do with access to SRHR for the youths," said Clr Moyo.

Matobo Ward 7 Councillor Sitshengisiwe Ndlovu encouraged health practitioners to regularly visit young people to teach them about their SRHR issues. "Nurses and other health practitioners should go out to the youths and engage them on SRHR, provide even sanitary wear for them, most youths find it even difficult to attend school with lack of sanitary wear," she said.

"As local authorities it is our duty to engage clinics, and other stakeholders to address the SRHR challenges in Matobo, and encourage the distribution of free sanitary wear. The SRHR project is important as it enhances the understanding of young

people about their sexual health rights; the right to make a decision even on even issues to do with abortion," said Clr Ndlovu.

The stakeholders agreed that SRHR awareness activities are helpful especially for young women and girls so they can gain more knowledge about their rights.

That way, they have more control of decisions pertaining their sexual reproductive health. The stakeholders went on to applaud CYDT for engaging them in these essential SRHR activities as they bring a collective approach towards the improvement and development of the state of SRHR services in the province.

Councillors said that seeing their children get pregnant and Sexual Transmitted Diseases was something difficult to digest. The process of thinking that their children have been engaging in sexual activities to an extent of getting STIs makes it difficult for them to look their young ones in the eye, however, it was imperative that as parents and leaders they embrace the fact that young people are engaging in sexual activities.

It is therefore, their mandate as parents to ensure that they engage in these activities in a safe way as prevention is better than cure. Councillor Elijah Nkala of Ward 5 in Umzingwane District urged leaders to be part of SRHR awareness campaigns that targets young people.

Gwanda Family Planning Centre health practitioner Mrs Mlotshwa said in one of the SRHR activities, young people must all be aware that they have the right to choose who to marry and the right to plan their family. She further revealed that youths have the right to access family planning services for free from any family planning centre countrywide.

She added that there was need to bring into awareness the existing SRHR institutions which are close to young people where they can access SRHR services without any hassles.

'A little help can save a girl child's life'

Findings made by CYDT during its continuous Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) activities in Umzingwane, Gwanda and Matobo Districts uncovered that young girls need admittance to essential basic sexual reproductive health care material like sanitary wear, and a CYDT board member Zanele Nyathi emphatically is in search of assistance from mindful individuals through gifts that can save a girl child's life.

Nyathi, who started the Sanitary Wear for Happy Days Campaign that pointed towards advancing young girls equal access to SRHR and arts for SRHR advocacy said uniting for a good cause is a victory for a community. She said such goals have instilled confidence in her to initiate the sanitary wear campaign after CYDT activities helped expose that young girls including herself, face challenges in accessing pads during their menstrual period.

"Sanitary wear is now expensive in Zimbabwe and a few can afford including those who are working. With that in mind, I just thought of a vulnerable girl and an orphan. I asked myself how are these girls surviving at a time when the Zimbabwe economy is extremely in a bad state. What are they using on their monthly periods? Some girls fail to attend school due to menstruation. It is a heartbreaking reality," said Nyathi.

Nyathi added that she "thought those girls might be using rags, usually torn from old T-shirts and blankets, old newspapers, used exercise books papers instead of sanitary pads. Those rags are washed and reused several times.

"There is no private place to change and clean the rags and often some if them are further badly affected as they may not have the detergents to wash them properly," she added. Nyathi claimed

that a culture of shame and embarrassment, forces them to seek for well-hidden places even in their homes to dry the rags and these places are often damp, dark and unhealthy.

As a result, she said, these young girls are exposed to different kinds of illnesses and infections associated with the lack of availability of and access to female reproductive health care services. "The provision of free sanitary pads to young vulnerable and orphaned girls in poverty stricken homes will enhance the enrolment and retention of girls in school thus having a long-term impact on an individual girl and her community development," said Nyathi.



For the initiative to gain awareness and garner a larger audience in Gwanda, Zanele Nyathi got help from local artistes like Kadder, Bhadilah, Bry and Kid Celsy who are using their social media influence to spread the message to the people of Gwanda and beyond the borders.

Nyathi said she is grateful for the support showed by artistes, friends, the people of Gwanda and the Community Youth Development Trust towards her campaign.

She added that she hoped a similar approach will be adopted by other communities of Matabeleland South as such initiatives are imperative in safeguarding and protecting the well-being of the vulnerable girls.

The donation of sanitary pads and other SRHR materials is not a one time initiative but an ongoing important activity and those willing to support Nyathi's great sanitary wear donation campaign can reach her in the following number; **077 964 8210**.

Matobo youth in donate a pad drive

Matobo District young girls are not only afraid of period pain when their monthly periods arrive but also the fear of bleeding in the classroom, church or while visiting their relatives due to lack of access to sanitary pads.

For them, their menstrual days mean missing out on school, picking up an old cloth rug or tree leaves to use as sanitary pads, a practice that exposes them to various diseases like cancer.

It is these tear-jerking stories that have moved one benevolent young Matobo girl, Angellah Kandiwa to initiate a 'Donate and Save a girl' campaign that is meant to curb sanitary wear challenges.

Kandiwa first proposed this campaign during a SRHR sensitisation meeting that was commissioned by CYDT in Matobo.

She said "young girls fail to attend school during their menstrual period to avoid bleeding in the classroom. As a result they lose valuable lessons at a time they cannot afford to miss lessons."

Kandiwa was speaking in reference to schools that are constantly closing and reopening due to COVID 19 prevailing conditions.


Kandiwa narrated that, "since childhood it has always been my dream to help children who come from a poor family background. Talking from experience

To page 8...

Youth voices on the state of SRHR Services

Sexual Reproductive Health Rights have long been a problem in Matabeleland South with young girls being the most affected. Young people lack access to their basic sexual health services to an extent that some of them resort to unhealthy practices to survive. This article gives young people a chance to share their SRHR concerns as well as give an update on what has been taking place to try and improve the availability of and access to SRHR in the province.

Sithandazile Ndlovu from Gwanda



Some of our SRHR service providers are not friendly, instead of helping us they start condemning us that is why we end up not going to seek some SRHR services. Most of the ladies in our communities do not know how to use female condoms, we need to be taught on how to use them as youths. The other challenge we face is the time factor, at times we go to the clinic in the afternoon with an emergency but they tell you late this affects us in getting our SRH services.

We are grateful of CYDT activities as they are provoking debate and action from responsible stakeholders. There is hope that our SRHR challenges will be solved.

Sukoluhle Maphosa youth from Matobo

Our SRHR problems are due to the lack of information. We have limited information about contraceptives for instance there are stories of how some contraceptives can result in some side effects. So many young girls fear using these contraceptives. The use of female condom is rare and many of us do not know how to use them. All these requires the help of health practitioners to come and help us in our remote areas since clinics are limited.

Nobuhle Moyoy from Gwanda




Health centers are not enough, and the one available is incapacitated to cater for every youth in Gwanda. We have one clinic in Gwanda (Phakama Clinic), so with COVID 19 that limits the number of people who access it, young people find it difficult to access their SRHR. Another problem is discrimination.

At clinic, community members are not friendly at all. Whenever they see a young girl who is pregnant, they will label her with all sorts of bad names. Many young girls do not bother going to the clinic in fear of being ridiculed. We hope SRHR activities being conducted will be an eye opener for the public so they can change their behaviour towards pregnant young girls and girls seeking contraceptives. Sexual reproductive health rights lessons should be made compulsory in schools to equip the youths with SRHR knowledge.

Ndodana from Umzingwane

It is a challenge to access SRHR services in our local clinics without being judged. If you have an STI they laugh at you telling you were you not aware that there are condoms. At times they ask you to bring the person you slept with when in need of sexually related medication, this becomes a challenge us. Rather than discriminating us, those senior community members and health practitioners must offer advice, counsel and support.

Rebecca Dube from Umzingwane



CYDT SRHR campaigns have led to more young people going to local clinics for SRHR services though there is a long way for clinic staff to change their attitude. In our community gatherings, there are sessions that cater for SRHR issues in which local leaders as well as religious leaders will be present. Baby clinics are offering teachings regarding SRHR issues especially to young mothers. We appreciate all the work being done towards improving the access to SRHR in Umzingwane.

Pink Sibanda from Umzingwane

The SRHR project has been of great help because I am now aware that it is my right to know about my sexuality, gender and reproductive rights. Young people are now aware that they can freely go to local clinics to access SRHR services. Young people including myself were trained to advocate for fair service delivery when we face challenges. The project has informed more people about Gender Based Violence and the need to speak out and report cases of abuse to the police.


Abigirl Dube from Umzingwane

There is lack of privacy in our clinics, we need privacy when accessing these services to be free and not worry about being judged. I really appreciated CYDT' s Voice Up Community mobilization Engagement in Umzingwane District as it gave us an opportunity to share our SRHR challenges to the duty bearers.

Ayanda Dube from Umzingwane

SRHR services have been partially addressed in our community. There is more work that is needed to address SRHR issues. It is encouraging to see that these current SRHR activities being conducted have even attracted big media houses like the Chronicle and Newsday. Finally, there is hope that our SRHR issues will be adequately taken care of.

Descent Dube (MYDI)



In Matobo, there is a rise in teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. There is lack of adequate health services to address sexual health care. Young people have to walk long distances about 20km to access health care which is a challenge during a time of COVID 19.

Having conversations around SRHR remains an abominable topic especially among parents and their children. We need to start teaching SRHR from grassroots level, we need to cultivate a culture of talking about sex generally. Children as young as primary level need to be equipped with knowledge about SRHR.

DID YOU KNOW?

Lack of access to Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) information and knowledge is one of the reasons behind disturbing teenage pregnancy statistics in Matabeleland South as young people engage in unsafe sexual practices while others fail to report sexual abuse cases due to limited knowledge about the existing institutions which they can use to report their cases without fear of being treated badly or caught by their perpetrators. To try and bridge that information gap, the Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT) has compiled important facts about SRHR.

Did you know SRHR are stated in the Constitution of Zimbabwe 2013?

Section 76(1) of the Zimbabwe 2013 Constitution guarantees the right to basic health care services including the sexual reproductive health care services.

Did you know child marriages are a violation of human rights for the girl child?

Section 81(2) of the Zimbabwe 2013 Constitution Amendment Number 20 Act stipulates that a child's best interests are paramount in every matter concerning the child and Section 81(e) protects every child from economic and sexual exploitation and any form of abuse, and in 2016, the Constitutional Court of Zimbabwe ruled that child marriages are unconstitutional, in other words a violation of children's rights.

Did you know that you have the right to say 'NO!' to unsafe sex?

The 2016-2020 National Adolescent and Youth Sexual Reproductive Health Strategy II (ASRH) guarantees safe sexual health practices among adolescents and young people and increased uptake of quality youth friendly integrated SRHR.

Did you know there is a free helpline you can freely use to report cases of Sexual abuse?

Young people who are not comfortable with reporting their sexual abuse cases to the police or their parents can freely dial the hotline number 116 to get immediate support.

Did you know parents and children are allowed to discuss SRHR issues?

Many parents still think communicating SRHR issues with their children is against tradition and culture, however, that is not the case as parents are encouraged to teach, advice, counsel and support their children when it comes to SRHR issues.

Did you know that Adolescent SRHR does not mean as young person, you can go around engaging in unprotected sex?

ASRHR are not encouraging or promoting sexual activities among young people but they are rights of young people to decide what they want with regards to sexual health. According to the ASRHR, young people have the right to terminate a pregnancy, safe sex and the right to sex education. ASRHR seeks to improve the sexual wellbeing of young people

Matobo youth in donate a pad drive

....From page 6

A WhatsApp group named "Donate and Save a Girl" has so far been created to attract donors and the link to this group is; <https://chat.whatsapp.com/D6tUskyMx7CDhl6kUrzUEg>. Donations are not limited to sanitary pads only as those with cash are also encouraged to help.

When CYDT got in touch with Kandiwa to ask her on people's reactions towards her initiative, she said people have been offering promises and solidarity messages; encouraging her to keep going and looking out for her colleagues.

I also faced the same challenge. I remember one day not going to school because my mom could not afford to buy me sanitary wear during my menstruation period. This is the reason why today I am calling others to join me fight this recurring problem. I give not because I have, but I give because I know how it feels not to have."

Thousands of Matobo girls lack access to sanitary wear, and Kandiwa said it was difficult identifying the campaign beneficiaries but told CYDT they will advise when they have identified them. Donations are being collected and delivered to Matobo Youth Development Initiative (MYDI).

MYDI that has been partnering CYDT in some of the SRHR activities has also embarked on a "#MatoboPadDrive" campaign in which young people and volunteers are encouraged to contribute towards purchasing sanitary wear which will be donated to young girls around Matobo.

MYDI Coordinator Descent Dube said young girls face specific challenges related to their sexual and reproductive health and rights. This includes having to navigate harmful social norms, discrimination, violations of their privacy and outright denial of services. He explained that these challenges inspired them to come up with this initiative so as to address these issues.

"We believe that youth have the potential to tackle these challenges and advance sexual and reproductive rights in their communities. This a start of many progressive initiatives we're going to embark on as young people," said Dube.

He acknowledge CYDT's advocacy efforts towards development of policies that directly promote young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Dube added that as an organisation, they are committed to expand access to youth-friendly services and make menstrual hygiene supplies available with the support of stakeholders and partners.