

He emphasised the importance of focusing on one's studies, and warned the students they would not have anyone but themselves to blame for their failures. He said many people in South Africa are angry and demanding as a result of emptiness and lack of direction. He said the students needed to learn how to deal with rejection. "You need to focus on the future, and forget past bad experiences," he said. "We all have problems, so look for solutions. Don't bottle up your anger, rather speak to someone," he added. Although he commended the MUT students for their good behaviour, he asked them to take a vow that it would always be a priority in the future.

Musa spoke about making choices. He said, "You can choose whether you want to be a good or bad person". He went to town about being a ladies' man - isoka. Nowadays this is not advisable because times have changed and there are many dangers, even to the point of being life-threatening. "What kind of man would look after the children he has fathered with his wife, but neglect those he fathered with the other women he did not marry?" he asked. He appealed to the students to lead honest lives which would benefit them in the future. He spoke at length about the challenges of polygamy and commented, "You need to satisfy all of your wives, and look after your children". He asked the question: "How do you abuse the person you love?"

Khuzani discussed the importance of trust between men and women. He used the example of mobile phones which may not be touched, and added that this type of secrecy is often a sign of problems within a marriage. He grew up in a broken family, so could speak from experience. He warned the students not to have babies that they would not be able to care for. "We need to love our women and never hit them. I beg you to remember this," he said. "Rather walk away when there is conflict."

Thembi Kweyama, the Dean of Students, commented on the fact that there are many male students who ill-treat others at MUT. She appealed to students to respect one another and make a point of discouraging any abusive language or rudeness between their fellow students. "Treat the girls like your sisters," she advised.



MUT girl students had a lot of fun during the movie night but still took away the message of the evening

Sister Mkhwanazi talks about GBV

The head of the University Clinic, Sister Nomsa Mkhwanazi, talks about gender-based violence, and suggests that it is mainly a result of socio-economic imbalances which in most cases favour men.



Sr Mkhwanazi

You may not be aware of the fact that in South Africa, one in four women aged 18-29, have experienced intimate partner violence. Despite progressive legislation, gender-based violence (GBV) is still prevalent in South Africa.

What is GBV?

Although different scholars define GBV differently, there is a common belief that GBV entails violence emanating from unequal power distribution between genders and normative role expectations within the context of a particular society. In South Africa, and many countries in the world, GBV is a human rights violation. In some cases it is perpetuated by cultural, social, religious and economic factors. Models like socially accepted gender inequality, religious practices, cultural norms and the low socio-economic status of certain women, makes them vulnerable. After having said that, it should be noted that men are also known to experience GBV.

The socio-economic factors influencing the spread of GBV, namely poverty, unemployment and gender inequality, need to be eradicated for us to win the battle against this scourge. Legislation needs to be effectively communicated to reach the masses and be adequately implemented for citizens to benefit from their constitutional rights.

Acts of GBV

Acts of GBV include, but are not limited to: stalking, sending dead pets, written and or verbal threats, unauthorised entry into workplaces or residential places, selling and/or damage of property and valuables, personal use of financial resources and prohibiting one from accessing sexual and reproductive rights (such as the use or non-use of contraception), and choice of safe sex.

Non-partner violence and violence related to exploitation includes sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere; trafficking in women and forced prostitution; sexual slavery and violence perpetrated or condoned by the state. GBV also includes violations of the rights of women in armed conflict, such as systematic rape, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy, forced sterilisation, forced abortion, forced use of contraceptives, prenatal sex selection, and female infanticide.

How predominant is GBV?

Many cases go unreported due to feelings of guilt and shame, stigma and discrimination. This also prevents victims of abusive relationships from leaving such relationships. Unfortunately, the reporting systems are not client-friendly.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



Saphinda Primary School pupils showing off their newly acquired books from Sage Foundation. With them are school Principal, District officials, eThekweni Municipality representatives and Sage members

MUT and partners source mobile libraries for local primary schools

Inkunzi isematholeni! This is a very powerful isiZulu expression that says that a great leader will be among the younger section of any society. Loosely translated, it means it is advisable to look after the younger ones so that they will grow and become better people. This is the kind of thinking that informed Mr Ahmed Motala, CEO of New African Education when he approached MUT's Marketing and Communications department (MarComms) with an idea of securing a mobile library for Umlazi schools.

Zama Sishi, Director of Stakeholder Relations in the department, said their view was that all levels in the basic education phase must be given attention. "Students at post-matric level often lack the most basic principles of writing in both English and isiZulu, and most likely other languages as well. We decided that merely talking about this was not enough, so our department decided to do something about it.

"We have been sourcing sponsorship for high schools in the township, but now we are including the lower levels as well. We started with Saphinda and Khalipha primary schools and secured mobile libraries for them through our partnership with New Africa Education Foundation. These were greatly appreciated by the schools." The Saphinda mobile library was sponsored by the Sage Foundation, while the one supplied to Khalipha was sponsored by Mancosa.

Thenjiwe Zulu, principal of Saphinda Primary, was delighted with the gift and accepted it gratefully. She praised MUT and their partners for their foresight and thanked the sponsors for being part of an initiative that sought to improve the quality of the pupils' education.