

SPEECH GIVEN BY *GABATSHWANE GUMEDE* AT THE WORLD
HOSPICE PALLIATIVE CARE DAY

AT KLERKSDORP 9TH October 2009

Good day Honorary adult friends, my fellow children, my friends, protocol is observed.

My name is Gabatshwane Gumede, I am an Ambassador of children's rights, representing South Africa in the whole world.

My work is to fight for rights of AIDS orphans and get additional support and assistance for children who find themselves vulnerable.

I am a child from this beautiful province which I love very much. I love myself and respect everyone else. I am also firm on what I believe in.

KA SETSWANA GO BO MOTHO GO THEBE PHATSHWA.

We need to love one another,

We need to care for one another

We are gathered here to celebrate THE LOVE AND CARE THAT
INSTITUTIONS – HOSPICES – give to us.

Some of us think that if someone is sick and can not take care of him or her, we just dump at Hospice - WRONG.

A HOSPICE IS NOT A DUMPING SITE.

I can assure you all adult friends and my fellow children – friends that people find new homes away from home AT THE HOSPICES.

That is why we are celebrating THE WORLD HOSPICE DAY TODAY.

And we need to make additional efforts to make sure that these institutions are fully support and assisted.

As I speak here today my friends, something came to my mind and I think that maybe ... maybe if my MOM and DAD had had an opportunity to be taken to a Hospice maybe – maybe they would still be alive today.

We are celebrating love, care and dedication of people who stand and say that I am going to do something to help change the world by helping people who are in need.

So today – THE WORLD HOSPICE DAY – I urge institutions and individuals who are in a position to do so, to think about all that you have done for someone in need, and if you haven't done anything, start today.

I advise you friends to start now and make a difference in the world around you and to the people around you.

ADULT FRIENDS

You do not have to drive fancy cars, dress in fancy clothes or live in fancy houses to be able to help someone.

Let us together dream for a better world.

Let us make a difference in other peoples lives.

We can do it through our organisations, companies, families and other programs that we might be able to use to help someone who needs our help.

Individuals must be motivated to do so because otherwise our people will just die like animals.

Save us, teach us – children, we are children today

But tomorrow we will be adults and if we don't know what is right now then we will not know what is right then and we will be totally destroyed.

Prepare us for the future, education must be highlighted. Teach us about humanitarian growth, people's rights and our responsibilities, and keep us informed all the time about what is happening in the world.

WE HAVE TO LEARN FROM WHERE WE COME FROM IN ORDER TO KNOW WHERE WE ARE GOING!!

To all hospices in South Africa and elsewhere, I thank you and may God bless your work.

Thank you very much.

