

NEW CENTRES TO HELP YOUTH GET AHEAD!

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FIVE new youth centres are now open in Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality. The centres are funded by the Department of Sports and Recreation. These modern places will help young people to get on in the world and develop their own talents. Bohlokong opened the first centre in the district on Youth Day, 16 June.

The new centre was officially opened by Thabo Mofutsanyana District Mayor Dr. Balekile Mzangwa and Dihlabeng Municipality Mayor Tjhetane Mofokeng. Other centres are being built in the local municipalities of Phumelela, Nketoane, Setsoto and Maluti-a-Phofung.

At Bohlokong people came to see the opening of the centre, which includes an internet cafe. And Mayor Mofokeng said: "In the next two months we are going to deploy a youth development officer who will make sure that the needs of the youth are met in the area. "We are disappointed that a centre like this was burned during a protest," he said. "I urge people to stop vandalising community buildings when they are not happy – because it is for their benefit!" said Mofokeng.

Two weeks earlier a similar centre had been burned down in QwaQwa during a service delivery protest. And the arsonists who set the fire claimed that the centre was "useless".

Dr Mzangwa does not agree with this opinion and stated that the centres in Thabo Mofutsanyana will be well looked after. He said the centres are aimed at training and developing skills to bring youngsters into the main stream of the economy. The centres will also offer career guidance, leadership development and socio-economic awareness.

Local man Vusi Dhlamini said he was happy about the youth centre. He said: "I believe that our youth will stop going to the streets – because we have something that will keep us busy at the centre!"

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