

Pupils to pledge against bullying

By Neria Hlakotsa

A campaign to encourage pupils to pledge against bullying and sexual violence at schools was launched last Saturday.

Known as the Ubuntu Pledge, the campaign will encourage pupils and teachers to uphold human dignity, non-racism and non-sexism.

It also promotes an atmosphere of mutual respect inside and outside the classroom.

Proudly SA CEO, Leslie Sedibe said the Ubuntu Pledge comes after a Soweto girl was gang raped by a group of youth in April this year.

"As South Africans we must never accept the hateful crimes as a way of life in our country.

"People need to drive the message to the youth

that abuse and violence is not acceptable and would not be tolerated," said Sedibe.

Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Enver Surty said the launch taking place on Youth Day, says a lot about the future of the country.

"As much as youth have rights, rights come with responsibility," said Surty.

He called on today's youth to uphold the prin-

ciples of respect, honesty, integrity and mutual respect for others.

Celebrities such as Yvonne Chaka Chaka, PJ Powers, Baby Jake Matlala, Miss SA Teen Celeste Khumalo, have also offered assistance and joined as partners in the national campaign.

They will serve as role models for the youth and take part in school visits.