

## 21st February Youth Day: Raising Awareness on Hard Drugs and Substance Abuse



Hard drugs and substance abuse among people is a growing concern globally. On 20 February 2026, Mimosa hosted a sports day to commemorate the 21st February National Youth Day, which was open to all employees, contractors, dependents and the community in general. Invited were key players in the fight against hard drugs and substance abuse that included the ZRP, Dadaya Youth Services and Drug Rehabilitation Centre, and the Ministry of Health and Childcare.

While the fields were alive with spirits of athleticism, the core mission of the day was on raising awareness against hard drugs and substance abuse. The campaign was running under the theme, "Say no to hard drugs and substance abuse. Stay clean."

The event saw a massive turnout, with participants showcasing their skills across a wide array of sporting disciplines, one of the crowd's favorites was the tug of war, which served as a perfect metaphor for the collective strength needed to pull the community away from the grip of drug and substance addiction.

A highlight of the event was a captivating performance by a local drama group, illustrating the social and personal toll of drug abuse and the dangers and consequences of selling drugs in a way that words alone could not.

The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) played a pivotal role in the day's agenda. Police Officers provided comprehensive information on the legal and health implications of drugs. They exhibited the different categories of dangerous drugs, explained how they get to the people and challenges with the law enforcement agencies nationwide.

The Dadaya Youth Services and Drug Rehabilitation Centre members outlined in a deeply moving way the dangers of drug abuse and addiction to the youth with real life testimonies from drug abuse survivors pouring out their journey from destruction of drug addiction to finding new hope through rehabilitation and discipline. They shared their first-hand stories of struggle and recovery and served as a powerful reminder of the cost of drug addiction among our youths and the impact on society and family structure.

The Vitality Awareness Group was also on hand, providing expert information on the importance of medical help and provided counselling sessions at the event to willing participants. The event revealed that every member of the society is key and must be involved in the fight against destructive effects of hard drugs and substance abuse to our community.