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AFRICAN YOUTHS RHYME AGAINST CRIME

*"From crime to rhyme we all stand together
Cos rhyme is a skill that will last forever
The sun still shines though it's stormy weather
The truth in the tune is what makes it better"*
- Rhyme Not Crime

Move over Outkast, step-aside Black Eyed Peas. Adelaide's African youth are waxing lyrical as part of a crime prevention project funded by the Rann Government.

Attorney-General and Minister for Multicultural Affairs Michael Atkinson will today launch Rhyme Not Crime's debut self-titled C.D., which was made possible by a grant from the Rann Government.

"The Rhyme Not Crime crew are using their experience as refugee migrants to South Australia to help other African youths to live peaceful lives free from crime," Mr Atkinson said.

Rhyme Not Crime is a rap/hip-hop crew of 14 young people who are encouraging others to live life free of crime through their musical and lyrical skills.

"Sadly many African refugees experienced war and atrocities in their homelands before coming to South Australia in recent years. These young men and women are sharing their stories and passing on vital advice through music.

"The Rhyme Not Crime project builds self-esteem, strength and motivation in the participants and gives them the chance to take action on the issues affecting them," Mr Atkinson said.

The 14 young men and women are all new arrivals to South Australia. They come from Sudan, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Tanzania, South Africa and Togo and are aged 18 - 27.

The project received \$18, 000 from the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Grants Scheme, which paid for music, web and video production as well as training.

Rhyme Not Crime collaborated with Adelaide hip-hop producers DaKlinik, who have taught them how to lay down beats and produce their music. The new group have recorded three songs and filmed a music video. The video features SAPOL officers and demonstrates how the right choices can make a difference to a young person's life.

Mr Atkinson says that he's not known for his appreciation of rap music, but he likes the song that Rhyme Not Crime is singing.

“You probably won’t find 50 Cent or Eminem blaring on my stereo, but I can appreciate the creativity and hard work that Rhyme Not Crime have put into making this C.D,” he said.

Mr Atkinson also commended the project co-ordinators, Multicultural Communities Council of S.A.

“Like any refugee community, African people face great hurdles in settling into a new country. I’m proud that the Rann Government is supporting projects that make a difference to the lives of young refugees.”

The 2009 round of the Crime Prevention and Community Safety Grants scheme is now open. Grants of up to \$50 000 are available for projects addressing youth crime, violent crime, indigenous crime, high volume crime, community capacity building and the built environment.

For more information contact the Attorney-General’s Department on 08 8204 9855.