

# Anti-child pornography website launched

By ZANELE MAZIBUKO

AN INCREASING number of kids are gaining access to pornography through either e-mails or cellphones.

This is becoming a headache for parents, who are often not around to monitor what their kids are searching for or sending.

As a result, more kids end up falling prey to paedophiles or being solicited by pimps.

To curb the spread of child pornography, the Film and Publication Board, together with the Department of Home Affairs, have launched a new website to help save many other kids targeted by paedophiles.

Home Affairs Deputy Minister, Malusi

Gigaba, said there is an increase in reports of child pornography and prostitution that emerged from e-mails and cellphones.

"South Africa is a fast-developing country with the Internet becoming mobile and therefore poses a challenge to all of us as the government, parents, teachers and children who have to be taught to use the internet or cellphones responsibly.

"While appreciating the massive benefits of technology, we must not be naive and think that it will never happen to our children, but we need to acknowledge the dangers of it," Gigaba warned.

This website service will afford the pub-

lic an on-line opportunity anonymously to report any unsolicited child pornography or sexual images discovered accidentally on the Internet or through mobile phones.

As from 1 July, the hotline number 0800 148 148 and the website [www.fpb-prochild.co.za](http://www.fpb-prochild.co.za) are available 24 hours a day.

If reporting child pornography sites, the Internet content analysts will assess the contents of any reported websites and will forward a detailed report to the law enforcement agencies for further action.

The website is also intended to alert Internet service providers of criminal activities relating to child pornography or sexual

abuse images hosted on their servers.

**The following are very useful tips:**

■ Talk to your kids about sexual victimisation and the Internet use, especially chat rooms, by paedophiles and child molesters.

■ Teach your kid to never arrange or agree to have any face-to-face meeting with any person they meet on-line.

■ Never post to the Internet any personal information or pictures of themselves.

■ Never download pictures from an unknown source, since there could be sexually explicit images, and

■ Never respond to messages that are sexually suggestive, obscene or aggressive.