



health

Department:
Health
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

uThungulu

NEWS

STAY INFORMED

ANTI-BACKSTREET ABORTION MARCH AND NIMART DOCUMENTATION



NIMART DOCUMENTATION SESSION



KwaZulu Natal has reached 1000 000 mark of patients on Antiretroviral Treatment. This has been a team effort from different stakeholders within the health sector. The Department of Health in KwaZulu Natal is very proud to have reached such a milestone. This milestone would not have been achieved without the NIMART trained nurses in the Primary Health Care service points. The MEC FOR Health in KwaZulu Natal Dr SM Dhlomo has embarked on roadshows to document the success of the NIMART programme and uThungulu District roadshow event was held on the 28th of January 2016. What is NIMART one may wonder? In 2010 the National Department of Health embarked on task-shifting process in the provinces whereby nurses were trained to initiate ARVs and manage HIV-positive clients to increase the uptake of ARVs. The country therefore launched the Nurses Initiated and Managed ART (NIMART) programme. Initially the process was doctor driven, however following bold and life changing HIV and AIDS policies by President Jacob Zuma of the Republic in 2009 a need aroused to capacitate nurses as more HIV positive persons qualified to be put on treatment. With that training nurses were now equipped with the necessary knowledge to give ART to qualifying individuals, which resulted in a huge number of people being helped at a Primary Health Care level

hence increasing accessibility with no need to go to a hospital to see a doctor in order to be initiated on ART. This training has made a huge difference in hospital waiting times and congestion. The NIMART trained nurses on this day were given a chance to talk on their personal experiences with regards to how being NIMART trained has helped their community and how it has personally made them develop. Mrs PN Zulu a trained NIMART nurse from Thubalethu Clinic under St Mary's KwaMagwaza hospital had this to say "Through mentorship fears are expelled, doubts are eliminated, confidence is built. I'm now able to wake up with determination and lie down with satisfaction knowing I have made a change in someone's life, NIMART has equipped me to be able to add life to people's years."





TOP SEATED FROM LEFT MR S MAPHUMULO, MS SCC MABASO, DR SM DHLOMO, UTHUNGULU MAYOR CLLR TBV MCHUNU , UHLATHUZE MAYOR CLLR MG MHLONGO AND MS I MAINA

STANDING FROM LEFT : MR S. MTSHALI, MRS B.R SITHOLE ,MRS NP ZULU ,MS B. MTSHALI, MRS TL MHLONGO and MRS L. DLAMINI





ANTI-BACKSTREET ABORTION MARCH

According to the 2012 Saving Mothers report conducted between 2008 and 2010 by the National Committee on Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths, 186 women died of a septic miscarriage in public health facilities – 23% of which were caused by unsafe or illegal abortions. A study by the South African Medical Research Council in 2010 reported that 49 percent of abortions undergone by young people between the ages of 13 and 19 took place outside a hospital or clinic and were therefore likely to be unsafe. Researchers further suggested that heightened stigma around abortion, cultural beliefs and healthcare workers attitudes, could be some of the reasons why women chose abortion outside the formal health care sector

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Health, Dr SM Dhlomo led a march through the streets of Empangeni central business on the 28th of January 2016 where he handed over a memorandum to the leadership of South African Police Services (SAPS) and uMhlathuze Municipality, calling for support and action against the scourge of illegal abortions. Dr Dhlomo reinforced the message that pregnant mothers need not turn to unscrupulous backstreet abortion practitioners as the Health Department provides free termination of pregnancy services to eligible mothers in a

healthy and safe environment. Here he expressed shock that these illegal abortion practitioners go to an extent of attempting termination to women whose pregnancies are at an advanced stage of five months and above.

“What is alarming is that we see these illegal abortion providers on the street corners

distributing the illegal abortion pamphlets. We also see these adverts plastered on nearly all the street walls and lamp posts. The adverts are professing ‘safe’, ‘pain free’, ‘quick and cheap’ abortions.

“The proliferation of this advertising, and the fact that it is posted in public spaces such as taxi ranks and shopping centres makes many women believe they are accessing a legitimate service, when they are not. In fact, these people who do backstreet abortions are health murderers,” he said.

Dr Dhlomo also warned some health care professionals who pass moral judgement on young people when they seek reproductive health services. This, he said, was a contributing factor to the rate of illegal abortions.

“We are trying to remind our health care professionals about the importance of upholding professional ethics at all times. This includes creating a conducive environment for everyone who seeks health care, regardless of their age. The Hippocratic Oath and Nurses’ pledge compel doctors and nurses to keep patient information private and confidential at all times. It is very important.”

About 600 community members and Health care workers participated on this march to raise community awareness.



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