



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL
CORPORATE COMMUNICATION SERVICES

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PROVINCIAL WORLD AIDS DAY

The whole world will on Wednesday, 1 December unite in the never ending battle against a disease that continues to wreck havoc within the human race. HIV/AIDS is one of the biggest medical challenges yet and the HIV daily infects thousands of people in South Africa.

According to United Nations AIDS estimates for the year 2004 indicated that there were 35,7 million adults and 2,1 million children living with HIV at the end of 2003. During 2003 4,8 million new people were infected. Almost half of these people are infected before they are 25 and they are killed by the disease before they turn 35.

World Aids Day is commemorated on the first day of December and the theme for this year is: South Africans caring together for women and children. Women and girls are the most vulnerable group to HIV because of various reasons, including unequal sexual power relations. Studies show that young women and girls are more susceptible to HIV/AIDS than men. They can be 2,5 times more likely to be HIV infected than males.

The day is used as a platform for creating awareness and educate people about the pandemic and how to stop it from spreading. Different events have been planned on this day. It is also used to remember those who have succumbed to the disease. The Provincial Department of Health led by MEC Peggy Nkonyeni, will host the Provincial World Aids Day event.



The Provincial Department of Health has made great strides in the fight against the disease with the rollout of ARVs and the Prevention of Mother To Child Transmission.

More than 3000 people are receiving the lifesaving drugs and more than 22 000 are on the programme. Every clinic that caters for antenatal care is part of the PMTCT programme. HIV positive pregnant women now have a choice of taking Nevaripine which decreases the chances of transmitting the virus to their unborn babies.

The Provincial Department of Health would like to urge everyone to be responsible and avoid unprotected sex. Abstaining, Being faithful to one partner and using condoms are the best weapon against the disease.

Details of the Provincial World Aids Day event are as follows:

DATE: 1 December 2004

TIME: 10:00 am

VENUE: Wembezi Stadium in Escourt

All media is invited and transport is available. Those who need transport should please contact Ms Lindiwe Khuzwayo on 083 393 9943 before 10:00 am on 30 November 2004.

ENDS

For more information please contact Ms Lindiwe Khuzwayo on 083 393 9943