

WORLD AIDS DAY

1 December 2011

Raising Awareness



Bojanala Platinum District Municipality

Started on 1st December 1988, World AIDS Day is about raising money, increasing awareness, fighting prejudice and improving education. World AIDS Day is important for reminding people that there are many things still to be done.



Cllr. Louis Diremelo,
Mayor of the Bojanala
Platinum District Municipality

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In this light, the Executive Mayor of the Bojanala Platinum District Municipality, Cllr. Louis Diremelo conveys his message of hope. "World AIDS Day provides an opportunity for all of us – individuals, communities and political leaders – to take action and ensure that human rights are protected and global targets for HIV/Aids prevention, treatment and care are met."

Valuable progress has been made in increasing access to HIV/Aids services, "Yet greater commitment is needed around the world if the goal of universal access is to be achieved," Cllr. Diremelo reiterated. "Millions of people across the world continue to be infected with HIV every year. In low- and middle-income countries, less than half of those in need of antiretroviral therapy are receiving it, and too many do not have access to adequate care services."

The Bojanala Platinum District Municipality has intensified its HIV awareness campaign all over the district, with testing and counselling coordinated for thousands of individuals.

"People should openly confront issues related to HIV/Aids, as doing so is the first step towards effectively fighting this scourge," said Stina Modise, Acting HIV/Aids Coordinator of the Department of Health, Rustenburg. "We are pleased that, unlike in the past, people are now coming forward in vast numbers to get tested. This alone is a positive development. What we need now, is for people to change their behaviour. This is very important in the fight against HIV/Aids," Modise reiterated. Cllr. Louis Diremelo also said, "We remain steadfast in the hoping for an HIV free South Africa; and that can only take place if we acknowledge the fact that we all need to change."



**RESPECT
PROTECT**



KNOW YOUR HIV STATUS
the power to improve your life



Be part of the solution, on world aids day



The red ribbon is an international symbol of AIDS awareness that is worn by people all year round and particularly around World AIDS Day to demonstrate care and concern about HIV/Aids, and to remind others of the need for their support and commitment. The red ribbon started as a "grass roots" effort; as a result there is no one official AIDS ribbon manufacturer, and many people make their own. The theme for World AIDS Day 2011 is 'Universal Access and Human Rights'. Global leaders have pledged to work towards universal access to HIV/Aids treatment, prevention and care, and recognising these as fundamental human rights.



MMC. V. Tlhapi,
MMC Gender, HIV/ AIDS,
Youth & Disability