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Xstrata Alloys commemorates World Aids Day



Rustenburg – Employees of Xstrata Alloys took some time from their busy schedules on December 1 and joined the rest of the world in commemorating World Aids Day.

Most of the employees wore red gloves and dressed in red clothing as a way to show their support to HIV/Aids affected and infected individuals.

Since 1998, following the declaration of December 1 as World Aids Day by the World Health Organization (WHO), the global community has been consistently involved in annual commemoration events which are aimed at increasing public aware-

ness towards issues related to HIV/Aids.

“We have gathered here today to honour this tradition,” said Swinky Kgoadigoadi, Xstrata Alloys Group Superintendent for Employee Wellness.

“We remain steadfast in the hoping for an HIV free South Africa; and that can only be realised if we appreciate that we all need to change.

We are all showing our hands in red gloves today in line with the theme: SHOW YOUR HAND ADOPTED BY RTC, an institution currently rendering a workplace HCT service for Xstrata Alloys,” said Kgoadigoadi.

Platinum Club Awards shortlisted...

Phokeng/Rustenburg – The Royal Bafokeng Enterprise Development (RBED), Platinum Club launched a networking event on Wednesday November 30 at the Royal Marang Hotel which culminated in nominations for the Platinum Club Awards. The event was attended by individuals from various and diverse business operations, mostly from the North West.

Platinum Club Awards are given to business owners who are successful and who inspire small businesses in the Bafokeng community. These awards include six categories - Entrepreneur of the Year, Promotion Award, Innovation Award, Sustainability Award, Employer of the Year as well as Best New Entrepreneur.

“Our responsibility is to develop SMMEs so that they are able to access bigger markets. We have a lot of programmes based on our assessments,” said Sarah Monone, the Enterprise Development Manager for RBED. “We are grateful that we can showcase our members. We work with small and upcoming businesspeople and we also encourage them through sharing ideas,” she added.

Ed Hatton – a freelance columnist with the Entrepreneur Magazine – gave a keynote address where he encouraged small businesses to be innovative in their operations. He said, “It is critical that a business progress from a small business into a larger operation, as numerous ‘start-ups’ stay on the same level.”

The companies that were shortlisted will be made public soon, with an awards gala expected to be held early next year to honour the eventual winners.

Lonmin's HIV 'Wellness Campaign'

Marikana – Lonmin intensified its HIV awareness campaign at its Rowland Shaft where hundreds of workers were voluntarily tested for HIV/Aids as part of a campaign geared towards the December 1 commemorations of World Aids Day.

The tests and counselling were coordinated by Nkathalo, a non-governmental organization that was established in 2007, and focuses on HIV/Aids awareness.

“This entire programme was led by Lonmin and we facilitated the process,” said Erika de Paiva, an op-

erational director with Nkathalo. “We have been doing this every year since 2008. We have noticed that there is an improvement in terms of how people are dealing with the issue of HIV/Aids.”

“The general consensus is that people act more responsible after witnessing the traumatic experience by those affected and infected. From today until December 6, we will be visiting all the shafts to test workers,” added Dakhile Ndiwalana, who is also an operational director with Nkathalo.

Through the programme, hundreds of workers at Lonmin are being tested and also being screened for TB, glucose, cholesterol and blood pressure.



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