



**KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**

TRANSPORT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## Media Release

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### **MEC NTULI CALLS ON CITIZENS TO UNITE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV STIGMATISATION AND DENOUNCES VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN DURING WORLD AIDS DAY COMMEMORATION EVENT**

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Bheki Ntuli embarked on a massive awareness campaign to educate citizens about the importance of preventing and treating HIV at a World AIDS Day Commemoration event held at the Sibusiso Sports Field in Ward 8, Nongoma yesterday.

The programme was also aimed at increasing awareness around the rights of people with disabilities as equal citizens in society.

During an emotionally charged commemorative event, MEC Ntuli called on the community to support and show solidarity with people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

The theme this year for World AIDS Day is "We're in this together, Cheka Impilo!" Centred on the Cheka Impilo National Wellness Campaign, this theme challenges individuals to make responsible health choices.

"We visited three indigent families in Nongoma including a child-headed household because World AIDS Day shouldn't only be about educating our community about the virus but it should also be about assisting those that are less fortunate because young girls from poor families are engaging in unprotected sex and falling pregnant in order to put food on the table and this could lead to further HIV and AIDS infections. We have profiled these households so that these indigent families can be assisted," said MEC Ntuli.

MEC Ntuli also highlighted the importance of working together to ensure a violence free society as we are also commemorating 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children.

“Gender-based violence is like a cancer in our society that needs to be rooted-out. This is a wonderful campaign that sets aside 16 days each and every year, from 25 November to 10 December, for society to evaluate their treatment of women and children. However, we should protect the rights of women and children throughout the year and not only during these 16 days,” he said.

MEC Ntuli also called on citizens to continue to adhere to Covid-19 regulations and non-pharmaceutical interventions such as washing hands, sanitising, social distancing and wearing masks.

Ends

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