

Thursday, December 01, 2011

DENOSA commemorates World AIDS Day- 'Getting to Zero New HIV Infections, Zero AIDS-Related Deaths, and Zero Discrimination'.

The Democratic Nursing Organisation of South Africa joins millions of people across the globe in commemorating World AIDS Day, a day that seeks to raise awareness and to call for measures to prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS.

We note the 2010 National prevalence survey results released by the Department of Health on Tuesday, November 29, 2011. The results show an increase in prevalence among older Women in particular those in the 45 to 49- year old age group. Numbers have remained steady in the 15 to 24-year old; a slight increase has been seen between the 30 to 34- year old and have dropped between the ages of 35 to 44.

Whilst these figures show a marginal improvement there can be no room for complacency as our country still holds the number one spot in the world when it comes to people living with HIV and AIDS.

"We however appreciate the progress made in the continuing fight against the spread of HIV and AIDS and reiterate our commitment to work together with government and other stakeholders in winning this fight", says DENOSA General Secretary Thembeke Gwagwa.

"DENOSA is commemorating the day in all nine provinces and activities for the day will include candle lighting, raising awareness, HIV counseling and testing, making donations & wearing the red ribbon. Our Provincial gender structures have taken lead in commemorating the event and four of our provinces will be making donations to children affected by the pandemic", DENOSA HIV and AIDS and Gender coordinator Seirah Ngcobo explains.

DENOSA National Office has partnered with GEMS (Government Employee Medical Scheme) to commemorate the event .GEMS is currently in our head office to offer HIV Counseling & Testing Services, Body Massage & Cholesterol level testing services.

"It is with this realization that getting to zero HIV related deaths can only be attained through embarking on healthy behavior like taking body massage & a constant check on cholesterol levels", says Ngcobo.

DENOSA has taken a conscious decision to be responsible in the fight against the pandemic and this will see each and every DENOSA member and staff member across the nine provinces lighting a candle at 12 midday in remembrance of all who have passed on as a result of the pandemic.

We further note that the HIV and AIDS pandemic is posing a massive strain to all health workers in particular nurses who are the backbone of health services. For this reason, through the DENOSA Professional Institute (DPI) we have and continue to train a number of nurses on HIV and AIDS management/counseling, Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) and on Anti-Retroviral (ART) adherence.

Furthermore, we are capacitating nurses on HIV and AIDS and stigma and discrimination to ensure that we assist the country in the continuing fight against the spread of this pandemic.

“We encourage all people in South Africa to get tested and know their status to allow effective treatment and management of the pandemic”, says DENOSA President Dorothy Matebeni.

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