



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL
CORPORATE COMMUNICATION SERVICES

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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 22 JUNE 2005

EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

"Value yourself, make healthy choices," is National Health Minister Dr Manto Tshabalala-Msimang's message to young people for International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is on Sunday 26 June 2005.

During this day the Provincial Department of Health will hold a massive event in Dundee in Northern KwaZulu-Natal to celebrate the day and create awareness against the use of drugs and substance abuse. The event will be attended by Provincial Health MEC, Mrs Neliswa Nkonyeni and will have a special focus on the youth. Due to peer pressure and other problems the youth is often vulnerable to influences that make them use drugs and other illicit substances.

This event is part of the department's healthy lifestyles campaign towards building a healthy and youth that is addicted to life. Teachers, parents, community leaders and the community from as far as Msinga and Greytown are expected to attend the event.

The event will also be used to make those who are using drugs to know that there is help available.

This year's campaign intends to send out a message of self-respect to young people around the world. It calls on the youth



to consider health related reasons why they should stay away from drugs or stop using them.

Negative effects can in some cases cause serious depression, respiratory problems and even death.

Drug abusers may also wrongly decide to have unprotected sex thus increasing their chances of contracting HIV or other sexually transmitted infections, or becoming pregnant at a very young age. Young people also fall victim to drug lords also use money to entice young people, and once they are in the trafficking business it can be very dangerous for them when they want to pull out..

The media is invited to attend and report on the event in Dundee. Details are as follows:

DATE: 26 JUNE 2005

TIME: 09H00

VENUE: SHOWGROUNDS (DUNDEE)

Transport will be available for journalists who need it.

Please indicate by close of business on Thursday, June 23 if you need transport to Dundee.

ENDS

For more information please contact Mrs Lindiwe Khuzwayo on 083 393