



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

CORPORATE COMMUNICATION SERVICES

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WORLD HEALTH DAY, 7 APRIL

"Make every mother and child count" is the theme for World Health Day this year. Every year on April 7, the people of the world engage in various awareness activities to celebrate World Health Day.

The day will be utilised to highlight health issue which result in the deaths of women having babies and of young children. It will also be used as a vehicle to create awareness and increase understanding that many of these deaths can be prevented.

According to the World Health Organisation more than half a million women die from pregnancy-related causes and 10.6 million children die, 40% of them in the first month of life. The frightening reality is that the majority of these deaths happen in developing countries. In developing countries pregnancy and childbirth are one of the leading causes of death for women of reproductive health age and 1 child in 13 does not reach his or her fifth birthday. In accordance with this year's theme the Provincial Department of Health will put special focus on maternal, women and child health.

This year will see the revitalisation of the school health service. The department is set on making great strides in the quest to eradicate polio in Africa. This will not only be achieved through awareness and educational campaigns but also by embarking on polio immunisation campaigns.



A new strategy for a wider understanding of cervical health and screening to capture women over the age of 30 will also be implemented this year.

In line with World Health Day, Head Office (Natalia Building, Longmarkert Street, Pietermaritzburg) staff will tomorrow get an opportunity to have free screenings for blood sugar levels and high blood pressure.

National Health Minister Dr Manto Tshabalala-Msimang will tomorrow host the national World Health Day event in Waterberg, Limpopo. Provincial Health MEC Mrs Peggy Nkonyeni will also be attending this event.

Let's make every mother and child count!!!

ENDS

For more information please contact Ms Lindiwe Khuzwayo on 083 393 9943 or Ms Janet Dalton on 083 457 1168.