



HEALTH
KwaZulu-Natal

CORPORATE COMMUNICATION

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MEC TO VISIT RURAL WOMEN OF WENEEN AS PART OF WORLD RURAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

The number of rural women living in poverty continues to escalate at an alarming rate as statistics show that the number of women living in abject poverty has doubled since 1970.

This sharp increase can be attributed to the factors like illiteracy, as two thirds of all illiterate people are women, which makes it difficult for them to find employment. The MEC will host the World Rural Women' Day Celebration in Weneen on Sunday as means of promoting awareness around the importance of health for rural women.

"Faced with such obstacles these extraordinary rural women play a crucial role in fighting hunger as they are often expected to provide food for their families and end up forgetting that they too need to take care of their health and well-being. Rural women produce more than three quarters of the world's food, in rural areas of the developing world where food production is the principle activity women provide up to 80% of food consumed in their homes," says the MEC for Health in KwaZulu-Natal, Mrs. Peggy Nkonyeni.

The KZN Department of Health hopes to utilize this day to facilitate the access to knowledge for rural women in order for them to get concrete and general information about health, nutrition, childcare etc.

The event will take place as follows:

DATE: 22 OCTOBER 2006

VENUE: WENEEN SPORTS GROUND

TIME: 10H00

The idea of celebrating World Rural Women's Day came about at a UN Conference for women in Beijing. The UN resolved to observe this day to raise the profile of rural women and to acknowledge the crucial yet largely unrecognized role played by rural women in our communities.

ENDS

For more information please contact Leon Mbangwa on 083 459 8695