

MEDIA RELEASE
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Dual Protection campaign launch well-received by students and management at UMgungundlovu TVET campuses

KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has thanked both the management and students of UMgungundlovu Tertiary Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College for embracing and giving support to Dual Protection campaign aimed at securing the future of our young people.

Speaking at an event to launch the campaign today, Dr Dhlomo explained that “Dual Protection” is an approach that ensures protection against both sexually transmitted infections - including HIV - and unwanted pregnancies. It encourages the use of contraceptive methods together with condoms during every episode of sexual contact.

Dr Dhlomo vowed to visit all the TVET campuses in the Province as statistics show that in South Africa one million babies are born each year, and 8% or 80 000 of them, are born to teen mothers. After falling pregnant, most of the teen mothers lose a sense of direction in life and also have a much higher chance of dying from pregnancy-related diseases. The MEC added that KZN, which has highest burden of HIV and AIDS, ought to lead in efforts aimed at creating an AIDS free generation.

“This initiative is in line with the President's directive of implementing the Comprehensive Plan for Management, Care and Treatment of HIV and AIDS in its totality with much vigour. This Comprehensive Plan is aimed at preventing the spread of HIV infections and coming up with a series of interventions aimed at improving the lives of those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS,” said Dr Dhlomo.

He also called upon students to avoid the pseudo-doctors who advertise “Quick and Safe Abortions”, explaining that it becomes very difficult to save a life of a young woman who has consumed a concoction given by these quack doctors.

Dr Dhlomo also urged parents and church elders to accept as a matter of fact that:

- Young people do engage in sex
- They engage in unprotected sex
- As a result of unprotected sex, they fall pregnant, and;
- During unprotected sex, they people contract HIV.

“We need to be open and frank about these things as a society,” he said.

Turning his attention to the young students, the MEC he explicitly explained that falling pregnant cannot be explained as a mistake as ‘It is an effort to have sex:

“You first agree with your partner that you are going to do it; you then find a private place for the act. Once you get there; you undress and then engage – you cannot call all this effort IPHUTHA (a mistake).”

Dr Dhlomo ended by indicating that this campaign is also aimed at ensuring that students graduate alive and healthy so that they may go back home and uplift the lives of both their families and communities.

He was thanked by the president of the SRC, as well as the principal of the Umgungundlovu TVET, who said they were looking forward to welcoming services for health screening and Medical Male Circumcision at the institution.

ENDS

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