

TO ALL MEDIA

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All violence against women, people with disability and children must stop

This was a clarion call by KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo on the occasion of the commemoration of 16 Days of Activism at Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital at Umlazi.

MEC Dhlomo says the commemoration of 16 Days Activism significantly takes place within the most important period when the world is observing the Universal Children's Day; the World AIDS Day as well as the International Human Rights Day

He says the most important element is to concentrate on empowering men to believe in themselves and live healthily and ensure that they become responsible men:

'We should all strive to assist men to understand women much better in order to achieve healthy relationships.

Our starting point should be to initiate and encourage Boys-to-Men programmes with the view to providing positive male mentorship to boys. We should do everything possible to instill the culture of being responsible citizens; to promote positive peer mentoring and most importantly impart life skills and educate boys on the culture and role expected of them as men.'



The event was held under the 2016 theme of: "Count me in: together moving a non-violent South Africa forward."

MEC says concerted effort must be made to encourage men to look at life in a more positive light. He says this will ultimately assist in eradicating the rising trend of suicides and family murders.

We have no choice but to create space and an environment for young boys to look at life in a positive and productive manner who embrace healthy lifestyle choices and plan for their future; says the MEC.

MEC then thanked the current management of Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital, under the leadership of Dr Sandile Tshabalala for turning the institution around for the better. Accolades were also poured by Mthokozisi Mthethwa of ANOVA INSTITUTE, a Gay and Lesbian organisation with a sizeable membership at Umlazi. He says they are treated with respect at Mshiyeni to the level that a designated Ward at its Gateway Clinic was created for them and they are free to consult and discuss their problems without being looked at indifferently.

MEC Dhlomo emphasised that all year round communities need work together to protect; develop and love women; adolescents and children.



MEC Dhlomo with Prince Mshiyeni Hospital management

ENDS