

TO ALL MEDIA

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Efforts to curb teenage pregnancy boasted in the rural area of Impendle

KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has held a community dialogue with residents of Impendle as means to deal with rising rates of teenage pregnancies in the Province.

In attendance were the local Mayor; teenagers; young omakoti; men; elderly women and traditional health practitioners.

Issues that were discussed pertained to the reluctance to use condoms; delay and non-attendance of Antenatal care by pregnant women as well as use of traditional ISIHLAMBEZO to induce birth.



In the commission that got MEN together discussing the concerns, it was observed that most teenagers reporting their pregnancy status at home as well as going to the clinics because of the fears that their parents will find out. Men then advised each other that the solution will come about if they get involved in their children's lives by giving advice especially on reproductive matters. They also advised each other to ensure that their families are financially taken care of as means cut out the temptations to get involved with sugar daddies.

The women's commission recommended that elderly women should talk more about the joys and benefits of being celibate to the day one gets married. Emphasised was also an issue of mothers getting to know their daughters better, being there all the time to give advice and guidance as well as being vigilant all the time to notice pregnancy symptoms.

Speaking for themselves the teenage girls pin pointed unprotected sex; desire to receive child support grant as non-involvement of parents in their lives. They also agreed that most of them love bling and flashy-lifestyles which they cannot afford hence their involvement with elder

men.

They also raised the issue of negative attitude coupled with lack of confidentiality by health care practitioners as inhibiting factors that prevent them from getting access to informed health advice.

They were not afraid to advice each other on the follies of getting pregnant just because they want to appease their partners or trying to create permanency in their relationships.

MEC Dhlomo thanked all the community members who participated and also asked the local leadership to continue holding these dialogues.

To the young girls he said:

Delaying sexual debut for our young women is the first prize but for those who are already sexually active; family planning is the answer and failure to follow through is an unwanted pregnancy plus a bonus of HIV.

Our clinics and hospital officials are also advised to adhere to the 'youth friendly facility' maxim and to always observe the mandated patients' confidentiality.'

ENDS