

MEC Dhlomo urges women to get screened for breast and cervical cancer in order to live longer

19 April 2018

If more women came forward and got screened for breast and cervical cancer, they would live much longer, healthier and productive lives, and be there for their loved ones who need them – instead of dying young.

This is according to KZN Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo who, today, led a march through the Port Shepstone city centre to create awareness about the top 5 cancers in the country.

Cervical cancer affects 1 in 40 women, and kills up to 3500 women per year; while breast cancer affects 1 in 26 women in South Africa.

Today's march took place amid a buoyant atmosphere, with nurses and local people, mainly women, carrying placards with powerful messages such as, "Early Detection Saves Lives"; "Obesity and Alcohol Consumption Increases the Risk of Breast Cancer" and many others.

MEC Dhlomo said that today's march is part of the "Phila Ma" campaign – aimed at promoting screening for breast and cervical cancer among women – and is one of a number of build-up events towards a national campaign on cancer, as announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa during the State of the Nation Address in February this year.



English
isiZulu

The MEC urged women to get into the habit of regularly getting screened for breast and cervical cancer, so that any abnormalities can be detected early, followed by the necessary treatment intervention.

"There are five cancers that worry us in the country. It's cervical cancer, breast cancer, lung cancer, colorectal cancer and prostate cancer. We want to therefore say that the things that have been said about oncology in the province account for 20% of the cancer cases, which are at an advanced stage. These campaigns of early detection therefore deal with 80% of the population. If people are coming in much earlier and we detect these cancers, we guarantee complete cure of their cancers.

Cancer of the cervix used to start on women after menopause. But these days we are seeing women as young as 35 being affected by cervical cancer. We want to encourage all women aged 35 and above to come forward for pap smears so that we can detect these cancers early and then intervene.

We are also focusing on breast cancer because this type of cancer can be detected much earlier, through self-testing."

He also urged all men above the age of 40 to routinely come forward to be checked for prostate cancer.

He also encouraged all women in the province to take advantage of the Pap Smear Drive, which takes place at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital, on Saturday, 21 April 2018 at 08h00. During that exercise the Department, in conjunction with the University of KwaZulu-Natal and Cancer Association of South Africa, will attempt to break a world record by screening 1000 women for cervical cancer using pap smears.