

# MEC Dhlomo turns the tables on men: "you are equally responsible for pregnancy prevention. Support your partner"

14 February 2019

As lovers celebrate Valentine's Day across the country, KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has turned the tables on ALL men, saying that they have as much responsibility as their female partners to avoid unwanted pregnancies and ensure that every baby that is brought into the world is planned for.

The MEC was addressing students at Amajuba TVET College in Newcastle today, to promote the use of condoms and female contraceptives, as well as create awareness about the importance of early detection of breast and cervical cancer - which are two of the top 5 deadliest cancers.

*"A lot of women struggle to convince their partners to use a condom because, quite often, the female has to say to her partner, 'Look, we have not tested... look, I don't want to fall pregnant, use a condom. "Therefore, we want to ask men to be responsible."*

He urged men to get medically circumcised, use a condom during every sexual episode and also encourage their partners to use contraceptives, which are available free of charge of public health institutions

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The MEC said he was thankful for the opportunity to impart health education to young people so that they internalise and growing up knowing important messages about the prevention and early treatment of cervical and breast cancer

He urged women over 30 years of age to undergo a pap smear, and those even younger to get into the habit of inspecting their breasts for abnormal lumps – and seek urgent medical attention when they discover them



The MEC joked that if women are too lazy to inspect their own breasts, he would ask their partners – or even religious leaders – to do so on their behalf. Reiterating the Department's ongoing efforts to fight cancer through Phila Ma initiatives, the MEC said 42 KZN health facilities have been allocated highly effective machines called Large Loop Excision of Transformation Zone (LLETZ) of the cervix- and that this rollout will continue.

Using electrical current, the LLETZ procedure removes that part of the cervix where the cells are becoming abnormal (dysplastic), which might otherwise develop into cancer.

*“Early detection of these cancers is crucial. It makes all the difference. We do not want our women to die from these treatable cancers just because they are detected too late.”*