

**Speech by MEC Neliswa Nkonyeni on the occasion of  
the Candlelight Memorial at Umsinga**

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Umcimbi wanamhlanje ngithi angiwuhloniphe ngokubheka incwadi engcwele, ikakhulukazi u **Genesis 1 verse 27**:

**“Unkulunkulu wamdala umuntu ngomfanekiso wakhe; wamdala ngomfanekiso kaNkulunkulu; wabadala owesilisa nowesifazane**

Namhlanje ngithi sonke njengezidalwa zikaNkulunkulu nezikhandwe ngomfanekiso wakhe masihlanganyele ukukhumbula bonke laba abangasekho phakathi kwethu, nabahambe ngenxa yalombulalazwe wegculazi.

Sonke siyizidalwa ngithi masazi ukuthi siyaphatheka kuloludaba. Kufanele kusikhanyele ezingqondweni zethu ukuthi asinalo igunya lokucalucalula sikhipe inyumbazana labo okumanje baphila nalo leligcewane.

Whether the person is sick with HIV or dying of full-blown AIDS, they are made in the Image of God.

Who are we therefore, to discriminate against people who are infected and judge them as having contracted the infection through promiscuity or sexual irresponsibility?

Umcimbi lona wokulayita amakhandlela wenziwa kuwo wonke amazwe omhlaba. Sekungunyaka wamashumi amabili nantathu kuqhubeka lolusiko.

Kuyacaca ukuthi nakuwo lonyaka ozayo sisalindeleke ukuthi siqhubeke nawo njengoba ikhambi lokulapha ingculazi lingakatholakali.

Kulonyaka umlayezo esiwuphethe uthi: **Turning Remembrance into Action.**

Mangiqale ngisho ukuthi ayikho indlela ozokwazi ngayo ukuthi unalo leligcewane ngaphandle kokuthi uhambe uye eMtholampilo kanye nakodokotela uyozihlola.

Amalunga omphakathi kuhle siwazise ukuthi kuqhubekani uma kwenziwa lokuhlola. Lapha kuqalisa kohlelo lwe counselling, olwenzelwa egumbini eliyinguyazane[private conversation]

- Its done with a specially trained counsellor
- Counselling is free and confidential

- Counsellor cannot tell anyone about your results without permission.

Ingqubo yaloluhlelo ime kanje:

- Pre-test Counselling**—lapho uboniswa khona ngaphambi kokuhlola
- Post-test Counselling** -lapha uyaboniswa kuxoxwe nawe futhi uma usugeda ukuhlola.
- Ongoing Counselling** -Loku kwenzeka uma usuthola imiphumela yokuhlola.
  - Uyasizwa kakhulu ukuthi ukwazi ukuphila ngokugcwele nalo leligcewane
  - Uyagcedwa futhi nangeziluleko kanye nokusekwa[ emotional and psychological support]

Abantu mabayeke ukusaba manje, usizo oluhambisana nesimo sakho angeke ukwazi ukuluthola uma nawe ungazazi ukuthi ume kuphi mayelana nalesisifo.

Yonke indawo siyacacisa ukuthi ukutholakala u**Positive** akusho ukuthi usuzofa kusasa.

Impilo iyakwazi ukuqhubeka ngokugcwele yizo igcewane unalo uma nje:

Othola izeluleko ngokuziphatha

Usebenzisa I condom njalo uma wenza ucansi

Umcimbi wanamhlanje ubhekene nathi ngqo njengoba isihloko sisho sithi, **Turning remembrance into Action.**

Loko kusho ukuthi our challenge is to demonstrate loving and caring towards:

- the neighbour who is infected;
- the families of the affected;
- those who are dying and confused and lonely;
- those who are rejected by their families because of infection;
- those who are feeling shameful and guilty because of their infection;
- those who have been raped and got pregnant and got infected in the process;
- those who have succumbed to peer pressure and started sexual activity without being ready for motherhood and fatherhood
- those who are trapped in prostitution because of poverty and joblessness and are trying to provide for their families by selling themselves, as well as
- the orphans left to fend for themselves because the parents died as a result of HIV and AIDS.

Umhlaba wonke kuyo lenyanga unathi singabantu baseMsinga njengoba sikhumbula izihlobo zethu ezingasekho.

Bakwethu makuhlale kusikhanyela ukuthi **There is no cure for AIDS.**

**There is also no vaccine to prevent it.**

Umsebenzi omkhulu usemahlombe ethu ukuthi sizophiphise sivimbele ukungenwa ileligcewane.

**We, the people, can and must prevent infections.**

Masibambisaneni noMnyango weZempilo kuhlelo lawo lokuvimbela ukubhebhethaka kwengculazi lwe **Comprehensive Care, Management, Support and Treatment Plan**. Loluhlelo luphinde lubhekelele nanokuthi lapha abaphathekile bayakuthola ukudla okunomsoco kanye nanokunakekela ezinye izifo ezifana ne TB kanye ne pneumonia.

Masibheke imali ekhishelwa thina ngemiyalezo evela emisakazweni nasemaphepheni, kuma Pamphlets abhalwe ngolwimi esuluzwayo. Ngisho nalaba abangaboni manje uhulumeni useqalisile ukubhala eminye imiyalezo ngohlelo lwe Braille ukuze nabo bazosizakala.

Uthini ngalama **Condom** angu **30 million** esiwakhipha mahala zinyanga zonke. Ama Condom aseqophelweni eliphezulu aziwa ngele **Choice Condom**, awuwasebenzisi ngani?

Unobhala weNhlango yeZizwe, uMhlonishwa u **Kofi Annan** uthi:

*'All of us must recognise AIDS as our problem.*

*All of us must make it our priority.  
We cannot deal with Aids by making  
moral judgements,  
or refusing to face unpleasant facts -and still  
less, by stigmatising those who are infected,  
and making out that it is all their fault."*

Iseluleko enginishiya naso mina sithi:

*If you're sexually active, you should get  
Tested at least once a year.*

Ngaphezu kwaloko bhekelela ukuthi uyaya emtholampilo  
uyokwenza ama Check up, okunguhlelo lwama:

### **Sexual health testing**

- yazi ukuthi iningi lama STIs awanazinkomba kodwa agcina ayingozi kuwe ---yazi futhi ukuthi uma esheshe abonakala iningi lawo liyapheka.

Impilo engcono kuwo wonke umuntu.

I thank you.