

11 March 2014

Media Advisory

The Department of Social Development together with its stakeholders will launch the HIV and AIDS Prevention programme focusing on sex workers in Mangaung.

The prevalence of HIV in the Province, especially around the Mangaung area has been due to the fact that it also draws a large number of migrant workers from the neighbouring Provinces and countries and from rural communities within the Province who work in mining and agricultural sectors in the Province.

The area of Bloemfontein has more informal settlements whose conditions of poverty do not only make the informal settlements susceptible to the fast spread of HIV infections, they also complicate attempts to fight the negative impact of the spread of this infection in the community. The commercial sex workers that are in Mangaung have been found to be from these informal settlements which have high levels of poverty.

The purpose of the campaign is to create awareness within the communities of Mangaung with focus on Dinaweng informal settlement, N1 Truck stop and other hot spot within the CBD, about the plight of people who are driven into commercial sex work, the risk of infection for commercial sex workers, and to try and understand what other intervention would be necessary for the commercial sex work phenomenon.

The campaign will target the commercial sex workers, truckers and communities (School going children) in Mangaung. It was agreed that these activities should take place on a Thursday the 13th in preparation for the Human rights Day.

The launch will have three activities on one day.

- There will be an 8 km march led by SAPS
- There will be a formal programme and launch with presentations on programmes by Department of Social Development, SAPS, NACOSA/ SWEAT, World Vision, and Thabo Mofutsanyana District representatives who were involved in the sex workers programme and interventions in Thabo Mofutsanyana. Concersations will also be held with the communities.
- There will be a prayer session led by the Ministers of Religion.

The media is invited to cover this event

Date: 20 Marc h 2014
Venue: Open Space, Christ Hani
Time: 10:00

For RSVP's contact: Dithuso Monare (manager HIV and AIDS)
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For transport arrangements please liase with Ms Lerato Tlhapuletsa on 079 264 1697
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