



the dpw

Department of Public Works
Departament van Openbare Werke
Lefapha La Ditiro Tsa Setshaba

OFFICE OF THE MEC

PRESS RELEASE

MONDAY 4 DECEMBER 2006

PUBLIC WORKS HIV AND AIDS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS

The North West Department of Public Works has committed itself to support the HIV and Aids Workplace Programme. This commitment was made when the Executive and Senior management signed a pledge committing themselves to creating a working environment that cares and supports employees who are infected and affected by HIV and Aids in Mafikeng recently.

Addressing media at the signing ceremony held at the Head Office of the Provincial Department on the conclusion of a two days HIV and Aids Awareness Campaign, Head of the Department, Mr Obakeng Mongale said that the campaign marks the start of a major initiative to be rolled throughout all regions and the entire department. Earlier the department launched a Voluntary Counselling and Testing Campaign for Executive and Senior Managers under the theme "Know about HIV and AIDS, Know your status for your sake"

The objective of the campaign is amongst others to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS, and encourages employees to know their status. Mongale added that because HIV and AIDS represents a challenge to all of us, therefore success in combating the pandemic depends on a close collaboration and continued strengthening of partnership with all sectors of society. He mentioned that Voluntary Counseling and Testing and disclosure by senior managers would destigmatise HIV and Aids.



Although the campaign originally targeted Executive and Senior Managers, the enthusiasm among lower employees could not be quelled as requests for slots in the tight programme overwhelmed the professional team that conducted the voluntarily in the pre-counseling, testing and post-counseling.

**ISSUED BY: THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
FOR CLARITY AND FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: LESIBA MOSES
KGWELE (DEPARTMENTAL SPOKESPERSON) AT 018-387 2447 OR 083 629 1987**