

Executive Mayor hails the role of traditional leaders as he addresses World TB Day event



Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shayi has hailed the role played by traditional leaders and civil society organizations in the fight against TB, saying “We want to express our deep appreciation for the role played by our royal leaders in the Cheka Impilo campaign, which is aligned to our National Strategic Plan. The overall goal of the National Strategic Plan is the elimination of HIV, TB and STIs as public health threats by the year 2030.”

The Executive Mayor was addressing the District TB Day event on Tuesday, 30 March at Maphalle village. The event was held under the theme: “The clock is ticking: Let's find, treat and end TB now,” which is in line with the World TB Day for this year. This theme underlines the importance of this social compact. The tagline is: “Unite to end TB in our communities.”

He said that despite the massive progress recorded in the fight against TB over the years, as many as 1,4 million people in the world still lost their lives to the disease every year. “We are saying TB is preventable and curable. We urge our communities to go to their nearest clinics and get tested for TB at no cost, especially when they display these symptoms: coughing for more than 2 weeks, night sweats, unexplained weight loss, and fever. The tests are much easier and quick.”

He also said that the fight against TB is important within the context of the ongoing battle against Covid-19. People with TB may have weak immune system and may be at risk of getting infected with Covid-19. A person who has TB is at risk of suffering more severe symptoms from Covid-19, but the risks are even higher for a person who is HIV positive and diabetic.

“Then we should take treatment as soon as we test positive for TB. It is also important that we continue to practice healthy lifestyle. We must always wash our hands with soap and water, but also cover our mouth when we cough or sneeze. We should not lose more lives from TB when treatment is available. We also know that TB is curable even if you are HIV positive.

“But having said, people living with HIV should be screened regularly for TB for we know that TB is closely linked to HIV and is the leading cause of illness and death among people living with HIV. We do emphasize though, that TB is curable,” the Executive Mayor said.

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