

# inside Mopani



May 2021

## Mopani District Municipality hosts Candlelight Memorial to raise awareness around HIV/AIDS

The Executive Mayor of Mopani District Municipality Cllr Pule Shayi led a candlelight memorial to raise awareness around HIV and AIDS at the Giyani community hall on Wednesday, 26 May.

He was joined at the memorial by the Mayor of Greater Giyani Municipality Cllr Basani Shibambu, the district commissioner of SAPS General Maggy Mathebula, pastors and officials from the Department of Health.

The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial is held annually around the world to remember people who died of AIDS-related complications. The International Candlelight Memorial was first started in 1983 as a community mobilization project.

The Executive Mayor used the commemoration event to urge communities to do more to end the stigma and discrimination around HIV. "But this day is also a reminder that HIV is still with us and that collectively as government and civil society we can and we should continue raising awareness, breaking down the barriers of stigma and discrimination. It is only when we work as a collective in our communities that we will be able to give hope to our people."

He said that progress has been made in achieving the targets set out in the National Strategic Plan. "We have made significant progress in the fight against HIV as per the targets set out in the National Strategic Plan for HIV, in particular the 90-90-90 targets which are aligned to the UNAIDS goals.

"But, we do remain concerned that despite all these efforts from government to ensure that indeed our people live long and a healthy life, we still have people dying from HIV related illnesses. Our people continue to have multiple sexual partners, but worse is that older men continue to target young girls at high schools and sleep with them without protection," the Executive Mayor said.

Follow and like us on facebook @Mopani District Municipality

*"To be the food basket of Southern Africa and the tourism destination of choice"*



# inside Mopani



May 2021

## Mopani District Municipality hosts Candlelight Memorial to raise awareness around HIV/AIDS

He encouraged those infected to remain on the ARV Treatment, saying “we are also saying if you have HIV, do everything you can to stay on your treatment and join a support group of people living with HIV.

“Let me also take this opportunity to encourage our pregnant women to attend antenatal clinics, which is key to the effective implementation in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission programme.”



Follow and like us on facebook @Mopani District Municipality

*“To be the food basket of Southern Africa and the tourism destination of choice”*