

**External Communications Unit
Press / Media Release**

To : All media
Attention : News Editors & Journalists
Date : 26 November 2011

For the attention of all media houses

World AIDS Day

The Sedibeng District Municipality will join the rest of the world in commemorating World AIDS Day on 1st December 2011. The theme for this year's World AIDS Day is "Getting to ZERO" which is in line with the newly formed UNAIDS goals. "Getting to ZERO" seeks to invigorate countries, nations and the society to be aware that HIV&AIDS can be beaten.

The World AIDS Day programme will be held in Rust-ter-Vaal on Thursday, 1st December and will include activities such as a fun run, drum majorettes, a brass band, a home affairs mobile, HCT services, etc.

The recognition of World AIDS Day commemoration was premised from the fact that unlike other pandemics like bubonic plaque, malaria and the others, HIV was not confined to a geographic area or location. Therefore earnest and intensified awareness campaigns were needed to make the societies aware of the devastation and challenges this scourge brings to their everyday lives. This was also meant to equip and enable people to prevent them from being infected and ameliorate the lives of those infected and affected.

Objectives of the Sedibeng District Municipality in this year's HIV&AIDS programme:

- To increase HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT) uptake and coverage
- To increase the utilisation of Male Medical Circumcision (MMC)
- To increase enrolment of legible individuals to Comprehensive Care and Management Therapy (CCMT) aka Antiretroviral Therapy
- To reduce multiple and concurrent multiple partnership.
- To witness the launching of the new National HIV&AIDS/TB/STI Strategy 2012-2016!

Ends!

**Issued by the External Communications Department
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