



## **HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

**“Together We Deliver and Grow”**

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### **Media Statement**

Attention: News Editor/Journalist

**MEC HLOMUKA CALLS FOR RENEWED COMMITMENT IN FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS IN THE HARRY GWALA DISTRICT**

1 December 2021

A renewed commitment towards the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS and Gender Based Violence was the clarion call that was made by the Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) MEC Siphon Hlomuka during the World's Aids Day commemorations which were hosted at the Jolivet Community Hall, in uBuhlebezwe under the Harry Gwala District.

The commemorations were attended by the Harry Gwala District Mayor Cllr Zamo Nxumalo, the mayor of the uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality Cllr E.B Ngubo and the Mayor of the Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Local Municipality Cllr Sindi Msomi.

Ms Nomfundo Ndlovu who is an activist called for heightened awareness amongst communities on the danger that continues to be posed by the virus. “Each one of us has to take responsibility and ensure that we know our status and that once we know it, we take all the necessary measures so that we prevent the virus from spreading within our communities” said Buthelezi.

In his address to the community, MEC Hlomuka thanked health workers within the district for their hard work which saw the District achieve the 90-90-90 UNAIDS targets which were adopted by the country in 2014. The targets are aimed at ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. These targets state that 90% of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) must know their status; 90% of those, must be on ART; and of those on ART, 90% must be virally suppressed. “Due to the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus, these gains have suffered a setback with the municipality poised to attain the target once more” said Hlomuka.

During the candle lighting ceremony, Mayor Nxumalo urged residents of the district who are undergoing treatment, to be diligent and not default in their treatment as they would risk a relapse. “As a way of remembering those who have passed away as a result of this virus, let us all commit to being diligent in the fight against the spread of this virus” said Nxumalo.

The host mayor Cllr Ngubo of the uBuhlebezwe municipality, hailed the ceremony as an important reminder about the importance of fighting against the spread of the virus.

Joint statement by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and the Harry Gwala District Municipality