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Provincial Treasury launches HCT campaign.

Do you know your HIV status? If not what is preventing you from doing the HIV test. This was a probing question posed by provincial treasury head of department Mr Johannes Mohlala to a large number of staff members, including those from regional offices, who attended the departmental HIV/Aids Counselling and Testing (HCT) launch at Mmabatho Civic Center last Friday.

The purpose of the campaign was to encourage employees as part of the broader society to get to know their health status in terms of sugar, cholesterol, blood pressure, TB, HIV/AIDS and other health and life threatening conditions

The campaign was spearheaded by the department's Employee Wellness Programme unit.

"It is important to note that as a department we are concerned with the well-being of our employees and hence we have a dedicated unit, EWP, that deals specifically with employee personal and work related challenges that may affect their work performance. Taking part in this campaign as employees will also assist significantly in improving our knowledge of HIV/AIDS and also popularizing our employee wellness programme," read a speech from Mr Mohlala.

The message about the dreaded disease was driven home through dancing and dramatization.

"The socio-economic impact of HIV/Aids cannot be over-emphasised. Society and companies are losing productive workforce as a result of the pandemic and with this campaign, we are trying as a department to play our role to contribute to the national target of testing 15 million people by June next year and ensure that those that have tested positive receive treatment that will prolong their life expectancy and productivity," said MEC Louisa Mabe.

The campaign was launched nationally and provincially by President Jacob Zuma and Premier Maureen Modiselle on April 25 and 30 respectively.

The objectives of the new scaled up plan are to reduce the rate of infection by 50 percent by 2011 and to provide ARV treatment to 80 percent of those who need the treatment.

Other objectives of the new implementation plan include more emphasis on prevention through information, education, widespread distribution of condoms and mobilisation of millions of South Africans to know their status.

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