



**Ministry of Human Settlements  
and Public Works**

**KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**

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**Date: 17 August 2010**

**ADDRESS BY MEC:HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND PUBLIC WORKS, MAGGIE  
GOVENDER AT THE ILEMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL ON HIV/AIDS**

The Programme Director, Mr.....add from program, did not receive

The Mayor of Ilembe District Municipality, Cllr S.W Mdabe

The Mayor of Mandeni Municipality, Cllr B.L Magwaza

The Mayor of KwaDukuza, Cllr T Khulusi.

The Mayor of Ndwedwe, Cllr S.W Khubeka

The Mayor of Maphumulo, Cllr M.L Ngidi please double check name

Amakhosi present

Councillors present

Officials from local and provincial government

All others present and all protocol observed

On 1 December 2009, I together with the District and Local Mayors convened the World Aids Day in KwaDukuza where we met with community based organisations, NGOs, government departments, and other stakeholders. At the same time, our President, Jacob Zuma addressed all South Africans saying that this epidemic is not merely a health challenge. It is a challenge with profound social, cultural and economic consequences. It can only be overcome by individuals taking responsibility for their own lives and the lives of those around them. As government we offered free HIV testing and counseling to all participants at the event. I am sad to say that not many took up the offer.

The time is now to stand up and make a difference in the fight against HIV/AIDS. As each day passes we loose more and more young people. It is common to see child and granny headed households. These children are just not just the brother or sister of their siblings but they have also become the “mother or father” of the home having lost their parents to HIV/AIDS. They have been robbed of having a normal childhood and in some instances many leave school to attend to their younger brothers or sisters. More importantly they have to find work to support their families. Often we see grannies looking after a number of children with no other means of income apart from their old age pension which they have to stretch to feed, clothe, school and pay the medical bills of the children. This situation is not getting any better.

It is time to stop talking and to campaign endlessly for young girls and men to abstain from sex until marriage. This is the only way to stay safe.

We need to campaign to test, because by testing ourselves, we will know our status and be able to get the necessary treatment to take care of ourselves. We need to eat the right foods to remain healthy. As a result we need to participate in the ‘one home one garden campaign’

where we can plant vegetables that are rich in vitamins and nutrients like spinach, carrots, beetroot, celery etc for our own benefit and also to share with our communities.

Currently the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Dr Zweli Mkhize and MEC for Health, Dr Sibongiseni Dlomo has been calling for men to be circumcised. Statistics have shown circumcision lowers your risk of contracting HIV/AIDS.

The 2001 Census statistics show that we have a total of 44 819 778 people living in South Africa, of that we have 9 426 017 people living in KwaZulu-Natal. Closer to home in Ilembe we have the following breakdown:

### **Gender**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>%</b>
Female	299 572	53.46%
Male	260 837	46.54%

### **[\[edit\]](#) Ethnic group**

<b>Ethnic group</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>%</b>
Black African	509 951	91.00%
Indian/Asian	37 462	6.68%
White	10 406	1.86%
Coloured	2 590	0.46%

### **[\[edit\]](#) Age**

Age	Population	%
000 - 004	63 172	11.27%
005 - 009	70 472	12.58%
010 - 014	71 672	12.79%
015 - 019	68 769	12.27%
020 - 024	51 863	9.25%
025 - 029	44 409	7.92%
030 - 034	34 767	6.20%
035 - 039	32 311	5.77%
040 - 044	26 364	4.70%
045 - 049	21 287	3.80%
050 - 054	19 708	3.52%
055 - 059	14 517	2.59%
060 - 064	13 614	2.43%
065 - 069	9 802	1.75%

Remove the table as it is too long, took it from the Wikipedia website...

The statistics for the life span of the economically viable age groups are alarming. They steadily decrease from 20 -24 years downwards. This shows that we are losing our adults at a very early age.

The Department of Health has clinics and testing centres in all districts. You only need to ask to be directed to where to access these facilities.