

SIYANDA BAKGATLA PLATINUM MINE



SBPM UNITING IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV AND AIDS



The voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) initiative was well supported by employees.



SBPM Social Performance Officer Dithuso Pilane addressed the employees.



SBPM Social Performance Manager Gontse Sekudu welcomed management and employees.



Bakgatla-ba-Kgafela Tribal Authority representative Motisi Pilane spoke to employees about the importance of a healthy lifestyle when you have HIV.



SBPM General Manager Hobson Jantjies motivated employees to make sure they get tested regularly.



Employees were educated on how to avoid contracting HIV.



From left: AMCU Representative Gift Ramokoka, SBPM General Manager Hobson Jantjies and NUM Representative Tshepo Seatsho during the candle-lighting ceremony.



Peer Educators fully support the wellness of our communities.



Employees were educated on the importance of using condoms.

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SBPM General Manager Hobson Jantjies

Northam – Siyanda Bakgatla Platinum Mine (SBPM) joined by various stakeholders gathered at Swartklip on Friday 13 December 2019 to commemorate World AIDS Day.

World AIDS Day, which takes place on 1 December every year, is an international day that creates an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV/AIDS. On this day awareness is raised about the pandemic and people show their solidarity with those affected and infected by the disease.

“On World AIDS Day, and indeed every day, we remember the millions of lives lost to the disease over the past 40 years. More than three and half million South Africans have been lost due to despair, stigma and exclusion,” said SBPM General Manager Hobson Jantjies.

The day was a reminder that we still have a long way to go to fight the stigmas attached to HIV/AIDS. The struggles and resilience of those alive today which brought about the substan-

tial progress the world has made in fighting the epidemic was also celebrated during the occasion.

The theme for 2019 was ‘communities make the difference, cheka impilo meaning, know your health status’.

Jantjies motivated attendees by sharing all the positive impacts of the ongoing progress being made. More than five million South Africans living with HIV or AIDS are now on antiretroviral therapy. He urged everyone taking ARV drugs to use it as prescribed – every day without defaulting.

Employees were encouraged to make the 2019 World AIDS Day the most successful to date by participating and making use of the opportunity to get tested and to know their status.

“It is the right thing to do. It is important for your health, your relationships, your life and your future,” Jantjies said.

He concluded the ceremony by requesting those who are HIV positive to enrol in the wellness programme at the hospital and to go for regular check-ups. He encouraged those who are HIV negative to make sure that they stay negative. Avoid engaging in risky behaviour like drug and alcohol abuse, unprotected sex or having multiple partners.

“Together we can overcome the pandemic of HIV and AIDS. The battle is not over and we have to remain vigilant always,” he said.