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**DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**Date: 20 November 2019**

**Embargoed: None**

**MEC NKAKARENG RAKGOALE TO OFFICIATE TWO BUILD UP EVENTS FOR  
WORLD AIDS DAY.**

Employees of the Department of Social Development will join MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale in participating in the Checka Impilo Health Screening Campaign as part of World AIDS Day build up activities. The department has been identified as one of three leading departments in the fight against the HIV and AIDS epidemic.

Hundreds of employees who will be ferried from the five districts will converge at the Polokwane Cricket Club for voluntary screening and testing for lifestyle diseases such as HIV, diabetes and hypertension. The activities also include a health walk and other sporting activities such as football and aerobics.

This year's commemoration will be held under the theme "Communities make the difference and Checka Impilo"

MEC Rakgoale will also carry the messages to the Full Gospel Church at the Lulekani Township in the Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality.

"As the department we have organized two events that are mainly aimed at mobilizing all key stakeholders ahead of the World AIDS Day Commemoration to be held on the 1st of December. We are also redoubling our efforts by also reaching out to about 3200 employees of the department across the province, where we are guided by the Employees Health and Wellness Strategic Framework which was launched in 2008. Government is using the framework to provide all the necessary support to the employees and their immediate family members. We are encouraging them to utilize the HIV counselling services that have been made available for them. We will also be reaching out to congregants of the Full Gospel Church in Lulekani. This is a way of demonstrating that the department remains committed to render its services to the vulnerable people of the society and general members of the public." said Rakgaole.

The MEC invites members of the media to join her as she leads conversations focusing on substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, HIV and gender based violence scheduled as follows:

Venue: Polokwane Cricket Club (Fun Walk and MEC address to employees), Time 08:00, Date: 22 November 2019.

Lulekani church visit:

Venue: Full Gospel Lulekani, Time: 09:00, Date: 24 November 2019.

Issued by the Department of Social Development Communications Unit. For enquiries, kindly contact Spokesperson Witness Tiva on 071 2492 178 or 071 906 9090.

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