



The Deputy Executive Mayor and Chairperson of the MMM Aids Council during the 'ceremonial Candle of Hope' lighting



The Deputy Executive Mayor with the rest of the MMM Aids Council Members. Members are from various sectors.



Cllr. Eva Molwa doing the vote of thanks



Mr Tefo Tabi is the Head of the Free State Provincial Council on Aids



Mangaung Choir entertained the guests



The launch was also attended by Mangaung Veterans and Community Champions

## DEPUTY EXECUTIVE MAYOR LAUNCHES MANGAUNG METRO AIDS COUNCIL

The Deputy Executive Mayor of Mangaung Metro, Cllr. Connie Rampai, on Friday 14 November launched the long-overdue Mangaung Metro Aids Council. Supported by the Provincial Council on Aids (PCA) and South African National Aids Council (SANAC), the Aids Council will work with various departments and civil society groups to bridge the gap between local communities and the city regarding the treatment, support and care for people living with HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis.

Addressing attendees at the launch, the Deputy Executive Mayor said: "Our meeting will ensure that we work together with all the departments, NGOs and come up with ways to eradicate the virus and lessen the burden on those who are infected and/or affected. The very chronic nature of HIV/AIDS requires the envisaged plan to be considered for a medium to long term period. This must be accompanied by an implementation, monitoring and evaluation strategy, as this will curb an emerging culture of non-accountability. This is indispensable since we are dealing with a matter of life and

death here."

The responsibilities of the Mangaung Aids Council, which is comprised of 10 members on a voluntary basis, are:

- To advise the Executive Mayor on strategic and policy issues regarding HIV/AIDS;
- Liaise with both the provincial and national AIDS Councils;
- To provide sound leadership and support the ward-based forums;
- To promote and support research initiatives in HIV/AIDS and other related diseases;
- Create an ideal environment for increased community involvement;
- Coordinate the implementation of HIV/AIDS policies
- Promote and support the integrated and multi-sectoral approach to control the impact of AIDS

According to Tefo Tabi, Head of PCA, members of the council will have a lot of work to do on the ground.

"They have to ensure that they co-opt

other people from their wards to be agents of monitoring and evaluation of any problem happening on the ground. Where there are problems and challenges, the council is a platform wherein our structures should come to the Deputy Mayor and the Aids Council and say: "these are the shortcomings we are seeing; so that we can intervene timeously," he explained.

Members of the MMM Aids Council will be inducted before they start their duties. This will be followed by the establishment of different task teams as per the objectives of the council. They will work in partnership with the department of health and advise accordingly on how to resolve the issues they come across.

"We hope the Mangaung Metro Aids Council will be the city's advocacy body, and the ears and eyes of the municipality in relation to the realities of the effect of HIV/AIDS, TB in local areas. When there are challenges that arise, we expect there to be positive criticism with the intention of helping, not to cause havoc," Cllr. Rampai concluded.

### MANGAUNG NEWS UPDATE

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