

# Isaac wants law against intentionally infecting others with HIV

STORIES BY SIKELELA MAMBA

**PIGG'S PEAK** – National Commissioner of Police Isaac Magagula said they wished to propose a legislation that would address the issue of people who knowingly and negligently infected others with HIV.

Magagula said this while officially opening a two-day long workshop at the Pigg's Peak Hotel and Casino yesterday.

The workshop, which is themed 'Law Enforcement and Public Health' was attended by senior police officers, officials from the Swaziland National AIDS Programme (SNAP), those from the Ministry of Health and officials from the Health Communication Capacity Collaboration (HS3).

### Role

Magagula said the workshop was aimed at determining the role they could play as the police service towards achieving an HIV/AIDS free generation.

"To combat HIV/AIDS as law enforcers, it is necessary that we operate in an enabling environment supported by fitting legislation.

"We, therefore, wish to propose that legislation be put in place that should be promulgated to address the issue where someone knowingly and negligently infects others," said the national commissioner.

He noted that the law should also be strong on the issue of stigmatisation and making a mockery of those affected by HIV/AIDS.

He said as police officers, they routinely dealt with cases where people insulted each other and made insinuations about the status of another.

Magagula also stated that they, as the police service, were not immune from the vagaries of HIV/AIDS related diseases as they continued to lose skilled officers from HIV/AIDS related diseases.

"Other than the loss of officers through death, the scourge also affects organisational productivity and efficiency as working hours are prone to be lost when officers are unable to report for duty due to illnesses," said Magagula.

### Fighting

He mentioned that they had prioritised programmes aimed at fighting the scourge which would be launched soon as a Health Policy and Health Strategy.

He said the policy would focus on promoting a conducive work environment that was safe and minimised exposure to risk and injury.

Magagula encouraged all police officers to test and know their HIV status and asked those bold enough to declare same to be positive because they would not be stigmatised.



Some of the attendants pose for a group photo with National Commissioner of Police Isaac Magagula outside the Pigg's Peak Hotel and Casino.

# 'Police service a professional body'

**PIGG'S PEAK** – National Commissioner of Police Isaac Magagula said they were a professional policing organisation that was always ready to listen to new ideas which might positively influence public safety.

Magagula disclosed this while opening a two-day long workshop at the Pigg's Peak Hotel and Casino yesterday.

"Although police organisations are notorious for being known as steeped in tradition, the Royal Swaziland Police Service strives to be modern at all times and readily adopts new ideas, which improve performance, especially in terms of controlling every pandemic," said Magagula.

He concluded by wishing participants fruitful discussions and deliberations, which would add value and assist in fighting HIV/AIDS scourge. He urged participants to listen carefully to the deliberations and come up with ways on how best they (police) could contribute to effective and compassionate HIV/AIDS control without detracting from the laws of the country.

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