

Police join HIV, Aids battle

Stories by
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Pigg's Peak

THE Royal Swaziland Police (RSP) officers have responded to the call by His Majesty King Mswati 111 for an HIV and Aids free Swaziland by 2022.

The RSP will soon launch a health policy and strategic programme to fight the scourge which currently afflicts a sizeable number of Swazis.

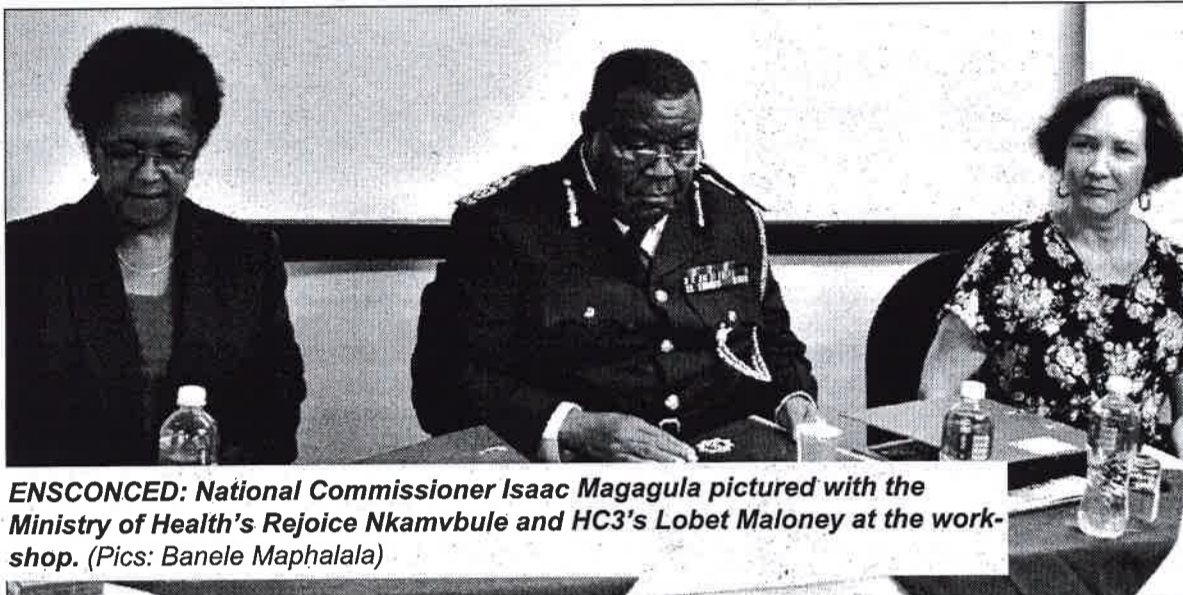
This was announced by the Police National Commissioner Isaac Magagula on Tuesday at the Pigg's Peak Hotel during an executive police training which ended yesterday.

This comes after Magagula noted that the police service was not immune to challenges that came with the sickness, stating that they were also losing skilled officers to the disease.

The national commissioner also highlighted the threats caused by HIV and Aids stating that it was not only responsible for the loss of lives within the police service but also endangered the productivity and efficiency of organisations, since working hours are prone to be lost when officers are unable to report for duty due to illness.

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ENSCONCED: National Commissioner Isaac Magagula pictured with the Ministry of Health's Rejoice Nkamvule and HC3's Lobet Maloney at the workshop. (Pics: Banele Maphalala)

ing a conducive working environment that would be safe, thus minimising exposure to risks and injuries. He further stated that the policy was going to include matters on prevention, testing, treatment,

care and issues of dealing with stigmatisation and discrimination. Magagula also added that the health policy was not limited to the health of officers alone but also to people who become guests at police stations service centres for various reasons.

Also present in the training was Deputy Director of Public Health Rejoice Nkamvule; who was representing the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Health Dr Simon Zwane and Libet Maloney of Health Communication Capacity

Medical doctor, psychosocial therapists to join RSP health facilities

A medical doctor and a psychosocial therapists are to join a health facility developed by the police service.

This was announced by Police National Commissioner Isaac Magagula yesterday at Pigg's Peak Hotel during an executive police training session which ended yesterday.

Magagula stated that the medical professionals were going to complement the nurses they currently had.

"We are also developing our

health facilities by bringing on board skilled personnel such as a medical doctor to provide specialised medical care and psychosocial therapists to provide counselling.

These professionals will complement the nurses already in our establishment," said Magagula.

Magagula also encouraged all officers to test and know their status, saying those bold enough to declare their status should not be stigmatised.



CHIEF: Pigg's Peak Station Commander Samule Mahlobo (middle) was also among the participants.

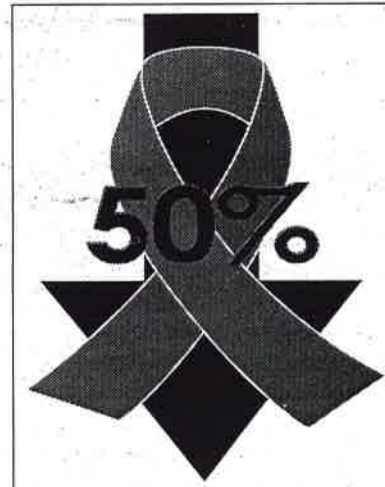
SD amongst SADC countries to reduce HIV by more than 50%

SWAZILAND is amongst three Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries to have reduced HIV by more than 50 percent over the past 15 years.

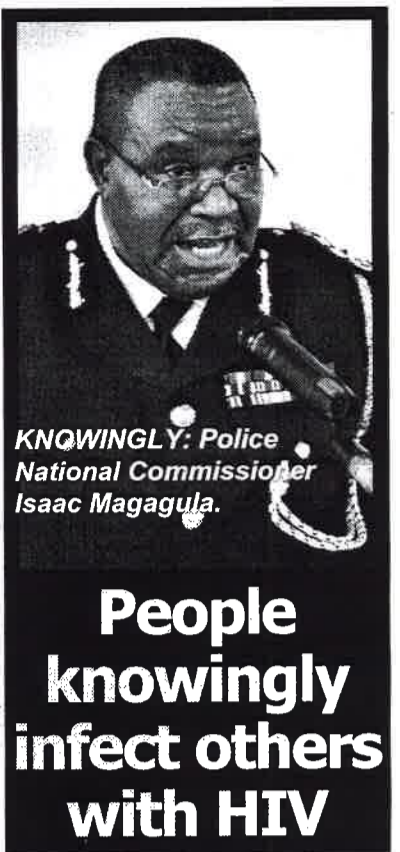
This was disclosed by the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Health Dr Simon Zwane yesterday at Pigg's Peak Hotel during an executive police workshop.

He was represented by Director of Public Health, Rejoice Nkamvule. Zwane stated that this proved that an HIV free generation was possible and also thanked the country's leadership stating that they had made a huge difference in fighting the disease.

Zwane also thanked the Royal Swaziland Police (RSP) for the partnership stating that it was a crucial ingredient in fighting HIV/AIDS.



Lastly, he thanked sponsors of the training stating that they were making a huge difference to the lives of Swazi people.



KNOWINGLY: Police National Commissioner Isaac Magagula.

People knowingly infect others with HIV

POLICE National Commissioner Isaac Magagula has called for legislative punishment for people who intentionally infect others with HIV.

Magagula lamented this barbaric act stating that such legislation must be enforced in order to address the issue where someone knowingly and negligently infects others.

Magagula stated that he was voicing this out because there were cases of this nature which needed to be dealt with.

"To combat HIV and 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 should be promulgated to address the issue where someone knowingly and negligently infects others.

"We say this because there are cases of this nature which need to be dealt with resolutely," said Magagula.

He also opined that the law should be strong on issues of stigmatisation and mockery of people who are affected with HIV/AIDS, stating that as a police service they received a number of cases where HIV positive people were insulted by others, who don't even know their own statuses.

"The law should also be strong on issues of stigmatisation and making a mockery of those infected and affected by this pandemic.

"As a police service, we routinely deal with cases where people insult others by making unsavoury insinuations about the status of another," said Magagula.

Lastly, he thanked the US Presidents Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through USAID for sponsoring the training.

He also thanked Swaziland National AIDS Programme (SNAP) and The Ministry of Health Communication Capacity Collaboration (HC3) Swaziland for making a change by sponsoring the training.

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