

# CANDLE LIGHT MEMORIAL COMMEMORATED!!

KOENA HLAHLA

The Candle light memorial campaign is being commemorated every year, this year's event was held at Botlokwa Mmachaka village. Mayor of Molemole Cllr Paulina Makgato had attended the event and also other Cllr's from different wards, ambassador from Aganang local area, officials from Dept. of health and Molemole local Municipality.



The purpose of the campaign outlined by Ms. Masekela from Dept. of Health, is to commemorate the memory of people who passed on because of HIV/AIDS and those who are living with it and they have people to look after them. With the theme: ***“Let's put the light on HIV”***. The main aim of candlelight is to indicate that we are no longer in the dark or lack of knowledge about HIV/AIDS we are in the light and the information is broad. This memorial is not only for people living with HIV/AIDS but for everyone whether reactive or non-reactive. Cllr Makgato emphasized the fact that there are still people out there who are reactive and they are busy spreading the virus. She also said this kind of campaigns showed progression and development in their area because the rate of HIV/AIDS at Molemole municipality reduced from 31% to 16.38%.



The honorable Mayor is committed in funding this kind of campaigns as they bring progression in their area. The ambassador Eunice mothapo gave words of encouragement to those who are living with the virus and those who are looking after them. Apparently she's also HIV reactive and speaks from experience “the virus does not keep me alive I keep it alive” she said. She lived with this virus over 10 years luckily she was never sick. She's now providing the counseling to the local clinics and educates people about HIV/AIDS. She advised them to get tested and those who are reactive to stop being in denial to start accepting their status and take their medication. “Going public about my status wasn't easy but it made me to find closure and accept myself” she said. It helped lots of people to come forward and start taking their medication. After her speech the Ambassador, lots of people queued to get her contact details. The event was characterized by the local dancers and poem.

**CAMPAIN IN PICTURES:**





