

**Press Release**  
**08 July 2013, Monday**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATES WORLD  
POPULATION DAY**

World Population Day is celebrated annually on 11 July. The day aims to raise awareness on various population issues that affect development. Issues such as gender equality and the empowerment of women, youth development, teenage pregnancy and maternal deaths are but some the issues at the forefront of sustainable development and when these issues are not addressed, lasting development will not be attained.

This year, the theme of World Population Day is **'Parents as agents of change in teens Reproductive Health and Rights!'**. Parents have a crucial role to play in talking to their children about their sexuality and ultimately, reproduction.

This event is rotated annually in the three districts of the Mpumalanga Province, namely, Ehlanzeni, Gert Sibande and Nkangala. The Highveld of Gert Sibande District is the area with the highest prevalence of HIV infections in the province, thus necessitating a multi- pronged strategy involving parents and society to play a role in mitigating the scourge of sexually transmitted diseases.

Members of the media are invited to the event scheduled as follows:

**Date : 11 July 2013, Thursday**

**Venue: Sasol Club, Embalenhle**

**Time: 09h30**

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