



# AGANANG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

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## AGANANG MUNICIPALITY CHAMPIONS FOR GENDER EQUALITY

By Disree Manyane



**Inaugurated AIDS Council Members with signed Commitment Pledge:  
Her Majestic Kgošigadi Maraba, Her Worship Mayor, Cllr Maria  
Mokobodi, Cllr Pitsi Makweya, Leutenant –Colonel W Moabelo**

It is not a mistake that Aganang Local Municipality celebrated International Women's Day and official launch of Aganang AIDS Council on 27 March 2013 at Municipal hall. Her Worship Mayor Cllr, Maria Mokobodi celebrated the day with 600 home based caregivers, department of health, traditional leaders and Older Person's Forum.

Aganang Department of health Operational Manager, Francinah Seema emphasised that Aganang residents must utilise the 11 clinics available in their communities. "We have 8 mobile clinics and 9

clinics which offer HCT throughout the day and night excluding Diana clinic and Knoble Hospital”, said Seema

Government is rendering treatment to people living with HIV to prolong their lifespan. Seema requested every person to know their status and have access to ARVs to live a normal life and reduce the number of orphans in the communities. She asked home base caregivers to work with department of health in addressing the problem of women defaulting their intake of medication after testing positive. “Once women are tested HIV positive, they don’t disclosure their status to their partners which result in them no adhering to treatment .We appeal that people disclosure their status to their family members in order to get the necessary support and encourage men to visit our clinics to test for HIV”, concluded Seema.

The motivational speaker of the day Ms Naledi Masipa motivated women to have positive focus in everything they do not to lose it.” Focus is when you concentrate in what you want to achieve in life. It allows you to give special attention to something. Remember we are able to do whatever we need as long as we don’t lose focus and be ourselves”, said Naledi

Naledi further advised woman to be proud and happy of their characters if they want to succeed in their marriages, relationships, professions and studies. “Today is a day to celebrate the little achievement in life as it is a blessing. Life is about being grateful for what you have and is never too later to change by push”, motivated Masipa.

Gender Justice / Local Government Country Manager from Genderlinks, Ntombi Mbadlanyana appreciated Aganang Municipality lead by Her Worship Mayor, Cllr Maria Mokobodi for their vast support through signing of Commitment Pledge to address gender issues. ‘The pledge is a symbol of the Centre of Excellence programme which looks at Golden mainstreaming and gender awareness in the Council. It is the Council commitment to champion gender equality in Aganang communities. ’, explained Mbadlanyana.

Her Worship Mayor, Cllr Mokobodi embraced women for their bravery roles and the importance of celebrating. “We decided to celebrate International Women’s Day with our caregivers lead by Maggie Monyebodi as a way of honouring their passion for the good community work rendering to our communities. Again we give hope to our women and youth affected and living with HIV/AIDS, with a believe that the launched Local HIV/AIDS Council will effectively implement programs dealing with the disease”, said Mayor Mokobodi.

Her Worship Mayor, Cllr Mokobodi signed the Commitment Pledge to devote her Council support in fighting against HIV/AIDS, violence and rape. Members of Aganang AIDS Council for 2013 were inaugurated during the official launch by Her Worship Mayor, Cllr Mokobodi.

Women and children are the victims of violence and abuse in South Africa. Mbadlanyana indicated that they encounter challenges of women not reporting the violence cases and lack of knowledge. “Many women in rural areas are not educated about their rights and working together we can address the gender violence problems as the Municipality motto says”, Mmogo re tla kgona”, concluded excited Mbadlanyana.

**Local artist Ngwana Ledwaba give an outstanding performance during the International Women’s Day Celebration that left the audiences dancing under the theme titled “Women Care Givers Fighting Against HIV/AIDS, STI’s, TB and Rape”.**



**GenderLinks, Ntombi Mbadlanyana appreciating Her Worship Mayor, Cllr Maria Mokobodi for championing gender equality. The motivational speaker Naledi Masipa(Middle).**



**Aganang Home based caregivers celebrating International Women’s day and official AIDS Council launch**