

100 terminally ill in Zombodze

By Timothy Simelane
Edwaleni

SICKNESS and disease weighs heavily on the shoulders of residents at Dwaleni, an area under Zombodze Emuva, where over 100 people were registered terminally ill and needed home based care.

Home based care Co-ordinator, Shodi Khumalo said the situation was so severe it had necessitated that care givers (Banakekeli) bring food from their families to give to the patients.

Khumalo said the situation was worsened by the HIV and AIDS pandemic, which manifests itself in many opportunistic infections. She said this in an interview whilst explaining the need to recruit more people to be care-givers.

A five days workshop to educate 18 care-givers was officially opened by the area Member of Parliament, Titus Thwala yesterday.

The workshop was held under the auspices of the Swaziland Reformed Church commonly known as the Dutch

Reformed Church and is facilitated by a South African home based care teacher, Thoko Mtsweni.

She said the 18 were the second group to be taken aboard by the Swaziland Reformed Church under the leadership of Rev A von Wyngaard as care-givers.

"They were impressed with the work done by the first group, that they volunteered to come and join in," she said.

Member of Parliament, Titus Thwala encouraged the care-givers to work hard in spite of the many challenges in the scope of their work.

"You do not always have to look at what you will get from your community, but at what you can do for it," he said.

Thwala said the care-givers who have been trained should use their skills in a profitable manner so that people can note the difference between a trained care giver and one who is not trained.

He also pledged to support their work when ever asked to do so.

"I get invited to many places for different projects but I know that charity begins at home. I have to serve my constituency first," he said.



Home based care-givers listening attentively while Zombodze Emuva MP Titus Thwala (Insert) addresses them at Dwaleni. This was during the opening of a 5-day training for home based care-givers in the area. Next to the MP is Thoko Mtsweni, the course facilitator. (Pic: Timothy Simelane)

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