



Tobeka Madiba Zuma Foundation, in partnership with eThekweni Municipality and UNAIDS, host the TMZF Listen to the Girl Child Campaign- Inanda, Ntuzuma & KwaMashu Dialogue

DURBAN, 13 MAY 2017 —First Lady Tobeka Madiba Zuma, in her capacity as the patron and founder of the Tobeka Madiba Zuma Foundation, and United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Special Advocate for the Health of Women, today led a dialogue on sexual health, violence directed at children, girls and women for 500 school girls from schools around Inanda, KwaMashu and Ntuzuma area in KZN, Durban second phase of implementation for the Listen to the Girl Child Campaign which provides ongoing mentorship to young girls, linking them with other women leaders in communities.

The Foundation aims to curb new infections through the Listen to the Girl Child Campaign and ensure that young girls have access to education and remain at school to maximise their economic opportunities, by advocating that young girls and women have access to good quality, comprehensive, life skills-based HIV and sexuality education at schools through the governments Schools Health Program whilst also promoting access to youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services in order to prevent teenage pregnancy and allow women and young girls to make informed decisions about their bodies.

Words of motivation for the girls included an address of the anticipated social issues that affect young girls such as peer pressure, prevention and guidance for the girls on how to tackle such issues.

"I would like to share with you the views and recommendations of a number of young girls from South Africa on issues ranging from violence against girls, and inability to negotiate safe sex. Their cries right now is that "It's time to listen to the girls!" These views were collected through discussion groups. These young girls come from different backgrounds, with the majority coming from rural and marginalized populations. We ask you fellow South Africans to stop and "Listen to the Girl Children" and carefully consider this call," said Madam Zuma in her address.

The programme for the day was directed by Nongcebo McKenzie, prominent media personality and Sihle Ndaba, well known actress of Uzalo -who led the dialogue, the highlight of the event included performance from Chomee and dancers which sealed the event with a high note thoroughly enjoyed by the young girls. The event was also attended by many dignitaries who provide support for the Listen to the Girl Child Campaign.

The Tobeka Madiba Zuma Foundation

The Tobeka Madiba Zuma Foundation, which was conceptualized in 2009 and started operating in 2010, provides a novel approach to humanitarian outreach as envisioned by the First Lady of South Africa, Madam Tobeka Madiba Zuma. Madam Zuma is passionate about the plight of the impoverished and it is her vision to lend a helping hand to those in need, in order to support the government in meeting its objectives towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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