World Cancer Day National Event- Show Cancer the door

**Tembisa, 04 February, 2017 –**The Tobeka Madiba Zuma in partnership with the City of Ekurhuleni and the Executive Mayors Office hosted a full day of screening and testing in commemoration of World Cancer Day at Rabasotho Hall, Tembisa.

*“I am honoured to add my voice to the global fight to eliminate cancer and express my support in my capacity as the TMZF Patron & Founder, on behalf of my Foundation. My dedicated team and I are passionate on delivering sustainable health care and community development initiatives that are accessible to all but with a special focus on speaking for the voiceless,”* said Madame Tobeka Madiba Zuma, Founder and Patron of the Tobeka Madiba Zuma Foundation.

World Cancer Day is highly significant globally as it unites the world under a single theme. Taking place under the tagline ‘We can. I can.’, the theme for World Cancer Day 2017 explores how people – as a collective or as individuals – can do their part to reduce the global burden of cancer.

*“We are all endowed with immense power to make a difference in our own various spaces, and it is important that we do it without ambiguousness. I appeal to all present here today, to continue to pay serious attention to your health. I also call on media, and all media representatives present to use their voice to educate our people. Information, and creating awareness on cancers is paramount. This information must be at different platforms and I call on you to ensure that it reaches the masses, in rural areas, in urban areas and not forgetting the urban-poor.* *Currently statics show that 8.2 million people die from cancer worldwide every year, out of which 4 million people die prematurely between the ages of 30 and 69 years.”* Mme Zuma added.

Various cancer survivors shared their testimonies of their experiences with the disease.

*“I’m a breast cancer survivor. My life changed in 2007 when I noticed changes in my breast around June/July*,*”* said Mrs Phungi Baloyi.

*“I decided I should do something and consulted the doctor. The first doctor said it was nothing and the second doctor referred me for a mammogram and they did examinations and a few days later the doctor phoned me confirming the worst news – I have breast cancer,”* said Baloyi.

She said that, for her, at the time, having cancer meant dying the next day.

Although she never understood why she contracted the disease, she added, she had all the support she needed from her husband, family and friends.

The First Lady said the work in her foundation includes advocating for people’s health.

“Our people should be enabled to get examined for these diseases equitably. People from the rural areas should not be deprived of these screenings,” said the SA First Lady.

Hosted by South African Kwaito producer Arthur Mafokate, highlights of the event included a heartfelt tribute by former Jamali star Liesl Penniken, performance by Mahalia Buchanan and show stopper Chommee closed the event with a bang.

This year the Tobeka Madiba Zuma Foundation will partner up with local governments from all over the country to offer universal access to treatment for all South Africans, screening services to improve early detection, health education and promote healthy living

The event was also attended by the National Department of Health officials, First lady of Ekurhuleni, Mrs Sinazo Masina and many other dignitaries.

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The Tobeka Madiba Zuma Foundation, founded in 2009, is an advocate for prevention, treatment and care of non-communicable diseases, a #cancersmart South Africa, TBand HIV prevention, treatment and care. For more information follow TMZ Foundation on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.