

Governor urges residents to undergo HIV/AIDS tests

✱ By Lovemore Chingosho

The Governor and Resident Minister for Mashonaland West Province Nelson Samkange have urged residents in the province to regularly undergo for HIV/AIDS tests in order to know their HIV/AIDS status.

Samkange made the remarks recently in Chinhoyi during the launch of The Zimbabwe Human Development Report 2003 on HIV/AIDS (ZHDR).

The launch was part of eight other provincial launches, which were carried out in the eight provinces from the 13th to the 25th of September.

Officially launching the Report, Governor Samkange said it was high time people should stick to one partner, to be trustworthy and above all to fear the deadly disease.

The governor urged the people of Mashonaland West to work together in the prevention of the pandemic, which has claimed the lives of the

most productive ages in the country.

"The disease is claiming lives of youth (seeds) living the old people suffering with no one to look after them," said the governor adding that the nation was at war and unless people changed their attitudes the war will never come to an end.

He also urged people to go for AIDS tests regularly so that they know their HIV and AIDS status.

"I have been going for HIV test after every six months for the past five years," said the governor urging other members of the public to do the same.

The Zimbabwe Human Development Report 2003 was nationally

launched in May in Harare by the minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare Paul Mangwana.

The Zimbabwe Human Development Report 2003 seeks to challenge the nation to redirect the HIV/AIDS national response in such a way that it becomes more developmental in addition to the biomedical response already in place.

"There is serious human resource depletion taking place across all sectors and age groups with the young productive age group being most affected," the report states adding that there was need to re-launch HIV and AIDS as top priority in the national agenda from a development perspective.

The report dubbed "Must read" for all key policy makers and the population at large contains extensive consultations and research aimed towards reducing vulnerability.

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