

Media Statement
To All Media
13 June 2022

LIMPOPO HEALTH DEPARTMENT CELEBRATE WORLD ALBINISM AWARENESS DAY

Limpopo Health Department has joined the rest of the world in marking the 13 June day to bring awareness amongst the people with albinism and the rights of people suffering from the disease.

The theme for the year 2022 is "United in making our voice heard". The theme was chosen because including voices of persons with albinism is essential to ensure equality, to encourage and celebrate unity among groups of persons with albinism and to amplify the voices and visibility of persons with albinism in all areas of life.

Albinism is a rare, non-contagious, generically inherited difference present at birth and that it affects human beings throughout the world, regardless of race, ethnicity or gender due to absolute or partial absence of a pigment in the skin, eyes, and hair. This disease happens due to lack of pigmentation (melanin) in the hair skin and eyes, which makes a person vulnerable to the sun and bright light.

"Our people who live with albinism continue to suffer widespread discrimination, stigma and social exclusion and many including children, and women, are extremely vulnerable, isolated and subject to abuse and violence. Recently, a notion has emerged that albino body parts are good-luck charms or possess magical powers. As a society, we must continue to frown against such notions and ill-conceived ideas about people living with albinism. This day must create an opportunity to all of us to declare solidarity with people with albinism and strive together so those who are often left furthest behind are able to live free from discrimination and fear, and empowered to enjoy their full human rights", said MEC Ramathuba.

End.

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