



**SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY THE
MAYOR OF GREATER TUBATSE
MUNICIPALITY,CLLR. RENEILWE
PHOLWANE AT VCT CAMPAIGN AT
XSTRATA EASTERN PLATINUM MINES ON
28th AUGUST 2008**

**Programme Director
Xstrata Eastern Platinum Mines Management
Members Of Staff
Distinguished guests
Ladies and gentlemen
All protocol observed**

**It is really an honour for me, on behalf of Greater
Tubatse Municipal Mayor, Cllr Ralepane
Mamekoa, to take part in the event of this
magnitude- VCT Mobilisation Launch.**

**I would like to indicate that we are still
celebrating Women's month. As an African
woman, I would like to salute the WOMEN of
South Africa especially those who work in the**

mining industry for the role they are playing in the economic growth of the country.

Programme Director, the well being of employees including knowing the HIV status is important and crucial as they play a major role in the production and the growth of a company.

I am proud and happy to see a big company as Xstrata Eastern Platinum Mines focusing on the well being of its employees than on its production. Some companies have turned a blind eye on the well being of its employees especially the issues of HIV, I applaud you Xstrata Eastern Platinum Mines Management.

Programme Director, both private and public sectors are faced with the same challenge- the spread of HIV amongst employees. Employers have the responsibility of ensuring that its employees are well educated when it comes to various diseases, including HIV/AIDS. Even if it is up to an individual to protect himself or herself against HIV/AIDS, but it our responsibility to spread the word regarding the prevention of the spread of HIV. Together we can achieve an HIV Free Nation.

The launch of Xstrata VCT Mobilisation is an achievement to the Eastern Platinum Mines and also to the community of Tubatse at large. This launch should not encourage people to discriminate people diagnosed with HIV.

We are gathered here today, to recommit ourselves in fighting the spread of HIV amongst community members especially the employees of Xstrata Eastern Platinum Mines. Today's event should be seen as a reminder to us, that HIV is real, spreading very fast and the number of people dying because of HIV related diseases is on the increase.

Programme Director, today, Aids, is no longer an individual issue but a community issue. It is important that we work together as private and public sectors to ensure that those infected and affected by HIV/Aids are being taken care of.

I would like to encourage you all to change your attitude against those people living with HIV. People living with HIV and those who have Aids need love and support. The love and support will keep them strong and give them hope. That will help them live a positive life. They will feel that they are still part of the company and community at large.

In conclusion, I would like to appeal to you all, to do voluntary HIV testing. It is better to know your HIV status before is too late. I discourage the tendency of finding out about your status when you are already sick. Is better to find out now, so, that you can be able to start taking care of yourself, avoid re-infection and put more effort to healthy lifestyle including good nutrition.

Xstrata Eastern Platinum Mine, I salute you for launching – the VCT MOLILISATION and I appeal to all employees to utilize this facility accordingly.

I thank you!