



Marking World Aids Day at the University of KwaZulu-Natal were, from left: Dr Beverley Damonse, acting chief executive, National Research Foundation; Prof Salim Abdool Karim, Pro Vice-Chancellor: Research, UKZN; and Prof Koleka Mlisana, head of Medical Microbiology at UKZN. PICTURE: RAJESH JANTILAL

'HIV infections running at 1 000 a day'

DAILY NEWS REPORTER

"ABOUT 1 000 people become infected with HIV in South Africa each day."

This cannot be allowed to continue, says Salim Abdool Karim, director of the Centre for Aids Programme of Research in South Africa (Caprisa).

Karim, who was speaking at the National Research Foundation's Science for Society lecture to mark World Aids Day, at the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Howard College theatre last night, added that "while we participate in this evening's two-hour World Aids day programme, just over 150 South Africans will become infected with HIV".

He was joined at the event by the university's head of microbiology, Koleka Mlisana, who narrated the origins, make up and progression of the virus.

"For the first 25 years of the epidemic, it spread rapidly to every region of the world and many people died from Aids-related diseases. However, in contrast to the growing HIV epidemic of the 1980s and 1990s, the last decade has experienced a decline in new HIV infections," said Mlisana.

She quoted UNAIDS statistics which suggested a 33% decline in the number of new HIV infections, from 3.4 million in 2001 to 2.2 million in 2014. She also noted that the most significant gains in reversing the

epidemic had been among children under the age of 15.

"Transmission of HIV from mother to child has decreased by 58%. In some parts of the world, mother-to-child transmission of HIV has been virtually eliminated."

These gains, said Abdool Karim, could be attributed to education and the use of condoms, which dominated the early response to the HIV epidemic.

"Antiretroviral (ARV) drugs have taken centre stage in the modern approach to HIV prevention. Nowhere is this clearer than in the World Health Organisation HIV guidelines released today with two key messages: Treat everyone who is HIV positive – the

new guidelines recommend universal HIV testing and treatment of everyone regardless of CD4 count; and offer antiretroviral drugs as prophylaxis to all who are at high risk of acquiring HIV," he said.

He said ARVs had transformed the HIV epidemic and had become the cornerstone of the global HIV response.

"Antiretroviral therapy has dramatically improved death rates and quality of life. They have revitalised communities ravaged by HIV and transformed perceptions of Aids from being a 'death sentence' to being a manageable, chronic illness. However, antiretroviral therapy cannot cure HIV, which remains a lifelong medical condition."

Xi's visit to focus on economic relations

PRESIDENT Jacob Zuma is today expected to host the President of China, Xi Jinping, on a state visit.

The Department of International Relations and Co-operation (Dirco) said Xi's visit follows on from Zuma's visit to China in December last year, when the two countries concluded the "five-to-ten year strategic programme for co-operation between South Africa and China".

Dirco said the two leaders would engage in bilateral talks where they would look at the progress made on the strategic

programme, with reference to the six priority areas identified for 2015, namely:

- Alignment of industries to accelerate an industrialisation process;
- Enhancement of co-operation in special economic zones (SEZs);
- Enhancement of marine co-operation;
- Infrastructure development
- Human resources co-operation
- Financial co-operation.

"South Africa's relations with China are at the level of a

comprehensive strategic partnership," Dirco said.

"The Beijing declaration on the establishment of a comprehensive strategic partnership encapsulates all facets of relations, where China has committed to the respective developmental objectives.

"The focus of the state visit will, therefore, be on economic and trade relations between the two countries," said Dirco.

"Total trade between South Africa and China experienced an upward trajectory since 2009, growing from R118 billion to R271bn by the end of 2013.

"While there is a trade imbalance, both countries have implemented various mechanisms to address these discrepancies.

"These mechanisms include the inter-ministerial joint working group, RSA-PRC binational commission, five-to-ten year strategic programme for co-operation and the strategic dialogue."

The state visit will be followed by the Forum for China-Africa Co-operation, which takes place in Johannesburg later this week. – ANA

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NFP stops disciplinary action, warns councillors

MAYIBONGWE MAQHINA

THE NFP will – for now – not be disciplining members who took the party to court challenging their removal from their local government positions, but that did not mean they should misbehave.

This is according to the party's national disciplinary committee member, Sibusiso Mncwane.

"There is still a matter before the court. We can't proceed with the disciplinary hearing

while there is court matter involving the party," Mncwane said.

Mncwane made the comments after the recent postponement of a disciplinary hearing against national working committee (NWC) member and eThekweni councillor, Mziwamandla Mcoyi.

Mcoyi was hauled before a disciplinary hearing for allegedly bringing the party into disrepute.

The disciplinary hearing came after the Pietermar-

itzburg High Court last month ruled in favour of 28 councillors when it barred the filling of the councillors' positions until their court challenge was finalised.

Mncwane said the postponing of the disciplinary hearing also applied to any disciplinary cases that might involve other councillors.

However, he said the halting of Mcoyi's disciplinary hearing did not mean members could act with impunity.

"They can't do as they

please. They can't do any misconduct while there is still the court case," Mncwane said.

Mcoyi confirmed the disciplinary committee had decided not to hear his case while a decision was awaited on the court challenge he and other councillors had brought against the NFP.

"I was of the opinion that I should not have been prosecuted. It was all part of a witch-hunt," he said on the postponement of the disciplinary hearing.

MARIANNE MERTEN

THE government policy of households not paying more than 10% of their income on transport has failed, according to the Statistics South Africa report on public transport costs.

"The policy is not implementable. (It) is far from delivering," said Statistician-General Pali Lehohla yesterday, adding that this had a detrimental effect on the National Development Plan (NDP), the country's blueprint to reduce inequality and poverty by 2030.

"It is not working – that's really the central message (from the report). The cost of doing business in South Africa is expensive."

Of the 5.3 million households which use public transport, only 2.2m spent less than 10% on transport costs, while 1.5m households spent between 10% and 20%, and another 1.5m households spent 20% or more on public transport.

The more a household

Transport costs too high for SA families

earned, the more likely it was to hit the policy target of 10% income expenditure on public transport: 90% of households earning R6 000 and more a month reported spending 10% or less on transport.

The lowest earners, receiving up to R400 a month, on average spent R146, or almost a third of their income, on public transport.

Those earning up to R1 671 a month spent just over 15%, or R252, a month on public transport. The policy target only comes into reach for those earning from R4 133 a month: they spent an average of R438 on public transport.

According to the Stats SA report, the majority of South Africans used taxis (61.2%), followed by buses (22.5%) and

trains (6.1%). However, taxis on average came in the most expensive, albeit by between R6 to R23 a month, of the three public transport options.

Around 4.3m workers drove in a private car, either as driver or passenger, to work.

Walked

The Stats SA report also showed 63.4% of pupils, or 11 million children, walked to school each day, while 21.2% used public transport – mostly taxis.

Four in ten workers used public transport to get to their place of employment – and again taxis were most frequently used (26.5%), followed by buses (7.6%) and trains (5%).

"The minibus taxi industry provides a vital service to millions of South Africans, and is

thus a servant of the urban poor. It does not only serve the poor in terms of transporting them, but also creates employment for the majority of the urban poor, who remain marginalised from accessing employment opportunities," said the Stats SA report.

Its recommendations include a call on the Department of Transport to foster partnerships to integrate public transport and land-use planning for better public transport accessibility, the need for public transport expenditure to be included in overall household cost calculations and to revisit the 1996 national transport policy white paper.

"Having access to reliable, sustainable and affordable public transport provides an opportunity for South Africans, especially those residing in rural areas or those living in poor households, to access essential social and other public services (like) health, education and employment," the Stats SA report said.

Lack of faith in systems: survey

Public grows ever more dissatisfied

MARIANNE MERTEN

CITIZENS' satisfaction levels with police continue their downward trend, as satisfaction with courts dipped significantly, mainly due to the perception of lenient sentences, Statistics South Africa's Victims of Crime survey has found.

Just 57% of households were satisfied with the police in the 2014/15 financial year, down almost 3% on the previous year, and well below the 64.7% satisfaction levels scored in 2011.

The main reasons for dissatisfaction are police failure to respond in time (79.8%), laziness (58.6%), failure to recover stolen goods (51%) and corruption (48%).

Burglary and home robbery remained the most feared crimes, according to the survey conducted among 30 000 house-

holds in the country last year and this year.

The courts, meanwhile, recorded an almost 10% drop to 54.4% satisfaction in the 2014/15 financial year compared to just one year earlier, when levels stood at 64.2% – almost unchanged from the 64.7% recorded in 2011.

The survey showed dissatisfaction stemmed from leniency with criminals (48.1%), matters dragging on too long (20.2%), and the unconditional release of perpetrators (16.4%). More people believe crime is on the up – yet 48.8% of people did not report sexual assault because "they didn't feel it was serious enough", according to the survey.

But most households are taking measures to protect themselves. In the Western Cape, just under 70% secured their homes, as did 63.9% of households in Gauteng – well

above the national 50% average. In KwaZulu-Natal only 41.7% of households had home protection measures. The survey recorded a slight decrease in people carrying firearms.

The survey found less than a third (31%) of households felt safe when it was dark, indicating a continuing downward trend since 2011, when 38% felt safe in darkness.

During the daytime, fear of crime continues: the number of households staying away from open spaces or parks increased to 36.9% in the 2014/15 financial year, compared to 35.8% a year earlier. The number of households not allowing their children to walk to school was also up: 18.4% in the 2014/15 financial year compared to 17.5% the previous year.

"South African households... increasingly feel that levels of violent and property

crimes are increasing and this makes it more and more unsafe for them to walk in the parks or even allow their children to play alone in the parks," said Kefiloe Masiteng, deputy director-general for population and social statistics.

"More and more people are starting to feel more victimised," Masiteng said.

On corruption, the survey found bribes were mostly paid for employment (15.5%), social welfare grants (14.2%) and with regards to traffic fines (13.4%).

Other areas for bribes were policing (13.2%), housing (13%), medical care (1.2%) and when visiting a prison (0.5%).

A desire to "get rich quickly" dominated reasons for corruption (81.2%), followed by greed (77.9%) and real need (23.5%), the poll found. – Additional reporting ANA

CORRUPTION RISING: PAGE 5

Heaviest burden on black women

MARIANNE MERTEN

DIVORCED or never married? If you are a South African woman, that means you are more likely to have a tertiary education qualification, according to statistician-general, Pali Lehohla.

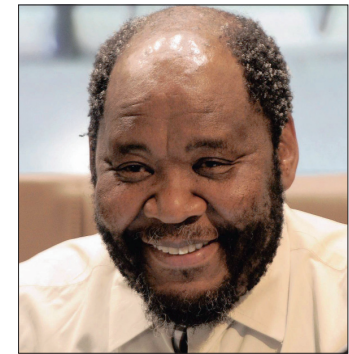
However, the Statistics SA Education and Gender report Lehohla released yesterday also showed that although women represent the majority of undergraduate and honours graduates, more men go on to doctorates.

Science, engineering and technology fields remained male, and mostly white dominated studies; education studies were dominated by black African women.

Rural young women remain most likely to have no school attendance in 2011, as in 2001, although actual numbers are dropping, and teenage pregnancy and family home-care responsibilities continue to keep girls out of school.

Last year, almost half a million girls aged 12 to 19 years (473 159) dropped out of school; 85 182 of them because they fell pregnant in the preceding 12 months.

The numbers were greatest in the Northern Cape, where almost a third of girls, or 32.8%, dropped out of school because



PALI LEHOHLA

quarter of responses given by rural boys... which is more than twice the proportion given for boys living in urban areas."

For boys 5 to 18 years, the main reason for not attending school in rural areas was inability to perform at school, while work commitments dominated in urban areas.

The Stats SA survey noted an increase of children aged 6 to 13 not at school in the decade to 2011, up to 2.8% from 2.2%. In KwaZulu-Natal, just more than one in three children aged below 13 did not attend school, or 36.8%, in 2011, followed by a distant second by Gauteng (16.6%), the Eastern Cape (13%) and Western Cape (10.3%).

While the national average of not-in-school children aged 14 to 15 years dropped slightly in 2011 compared to 2001, more girls remained out of school than boys: overall 4.9% of girls aged 14 to 15 years were out of school, and 4.6% of boys.

In 2001, the respective percentages for girls and boys not attending school were 5.6% and 5.3%. Again, the most children in this age bracket not at school in 2011 were in KZN (30%), followed by the Eastern Cape (15.6%), Gauteng (14.7%) and the Western Cape (12.1%).

Factors which increased children's likelihood of attaining matric included access to

electricity and the internet.

Those counting against included living in households headed by a single mother, low-income households, children forced to skip meals and those where generations lived together under the same roof.

In a 2013 household survey, Stats SA found black women carried the heaviest social and economic burdens – from single-handedly raising children, while earning the least in menial jobs.

The report showed education levels and income were linked: households with a monthly income up to R1 500 showed 21% of individuals had matric, but a mere 0.7% were graduates, while households earning up to R5 460 included 29.2% of members with matric and 1% graduates. In households with R14 000 or more a month, there were 39.5% with matric and 20% graduates.

The report showed that black African children's literacy rates trail behind coloured, Indian and white counterparts, regardless of income. White males remained twice as likely to be employed than black African counterparts.

Lehohla said: "For as long as you are black, you are not going to do well in matric... It shows the fissures embedded in our society."

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Half million for Aids centre

THE Hillcrest Aids Centre has received a cash injection of almost R500 000 to help treat people living with the disease.

The announcement was made yesterday on World Aids Day. The money was donated by the Sibaya Community Trust. The centre cares for patients from the Valley of 1 000 Hills, one of the epicentres of the Aids pandemic. The money will go to the centre's Othandweni Respite Unit. – Daily News Reporter

PowerBall LAST NIGHT'S DRAW
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POWERBALL

Winners	Amount
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2 Match 5	9 R120 324.20
3 Match 4 + Powerball	62 R8 831.90
4 Match 4	1 040 R999.50
5 Match 3 + Powerball	1 964 R507.20
6 Match 3	41 598 R20.30
7 Match 2 + Powerball	25 429 R22.10
8 Match 1 + Powerball	119 965 R15.00
9 Match Powerball	164 078 R10.00
PRIZE POOL:	R14 569 938

Mama Taxi (words by) Deni Brown (pictures by) Gavin Thomson

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YOUR GRANDKIDS ARE GOING TO HAVE FUN

GRANDKIDS?

2/12/15