

# Jambo

NEW ZEALAND AIDS FOUNDATION AFRICAN COMMUNITIES NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 09 JUNE 11



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## Here comes Jambo again!

*Jambo* means 'hello' in Swahili. *Jambo* is the official newsletter of the New Zealand AIDS Foundation (NZAF) African Communities programme, developed to keep in touch with members of New Zealand-based African communities, service providers, key stakeholders and many friends around the globe.

## Staff Corner

The team remains focused on our objective; serving all African communities in New Zealand by preventing the transmission of HIV through health promotion, education and advocacy.

At the beginning of the year the team members had opportunities to rest or visit some lovely places while they were on leave or during the course of their work. Fungisai Foto (Wellington) who is originally from Zimbabwe had a magical four-day boat cruise across the Tasman Sea onboard the Pacific Pearl. Marian Hussen (Christchurch) visited her family in Sydney, Australia - Marian is originally from Somalia. Our Tanzanian brother, Rumishael Masanga, (Auckland) visited his home country, Tanzania and Kudakwashe Tuwe (Auckland) went to Canada and Australia, as a speaker at conferences.

## Christchurch Earthquake

As New Zealanders, we feel deeply for our sisters and brothers in Christchurch. Local emergency and social services have reported high levels of stress, anxiety and hyper-vigilance among residents because of the continuing earthquakes. Our thoughts are with everyone in the city as we think of the emotional and challenging journey you are going through.

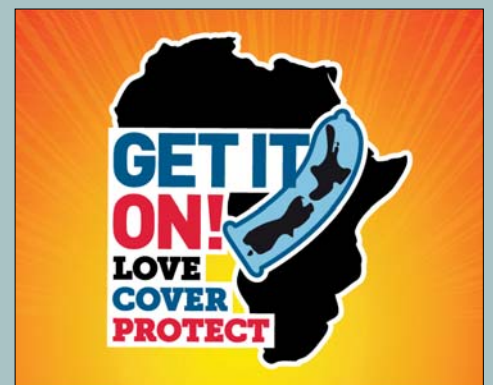
The African community in Christchurch has played a pivotal role in the recovery response. Members of the Auckland African community held a successful fundraising event in March 2011 and raised a couple of thousand dollars for the Christchurch earthquake relief efforts.



*Marian and Tuwe (fourth from left and centre) with the participants of a Youth Workshop in Christchurch.*

## New African Website

A new *Get it On!* website is in development for the African communities in New Zealand. [www.lovecoverprotect.co.nz](http://www.lovecoverprotect.co.nz), is a new site developed to promote condom use as the best way of preventing HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and provides culturally appropriate information and advice about sexual health.





*Tutsi Chadoka performing at the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial in Auckland.*

## International AIDS Candle Light Memorial

On 15 May 2011, New Zealanders across the country gathered to mark the 28th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial.

We are pleased to report that the NZAF African Communities team arranged an appearance by Tutsi Chadoka, a professional and renowned Gospel singer, at the Auckland service. Look out for Tutsi's second album which will be released shortly. Tutsi also participated in the development of an NZAF DVD recently too. Many thanks Tutsi for your performance. In New Zealand, Candlelight Memorials were held in Whangarei, Auckland, Tolaga Bay, New Plymouth, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin and Invercargill; the greatest number of services held in New Zealand since the 1990s.

Hundreds of people, including those living with, and affected by HIV, will unite to honour and celebrate the lives of those who have been affected by, and died of AIDS.

## Team Activities

Since the beginning of 2011, we have held several workshops; Youth Workshops, Religious Leaders' Workshops and Train-the-trainer Workshops. Additionally, the team is involved in community engagement; sponsoring and participating in national independence celebrations. The staff are often given some time to speak, share their work and emphasise HIV statistics for our African communities.

## New Resource Development

The NZAF African Communities team are finding new and innovative ways to communicate and serve our African communities. We have developed the following vibrant, new resources:

- pull-up banners
- a 12 foot high beach flag
- t-shirts to give to community members.



Look out for the resources which will be out and about at African community events over the coming months.

## School Holiday Programme

The NZAF sponsored and participated in a holiday programme in Auckland for children hosted by an organisation called New Zealand African Welfare Service Trust (NZAWST).

The NZAWST provides professional and culturally-appropriate social services to empower new African immigrants, refugees and the wider African community in Auckland.

They offer a range of social services such as parenting and driving courses, family support, counselling, youth programmes, advocacy and interpreting, school holiday programmes, budget advice and African women's groups. Like the NZAF African Communities team, the NZAWST staff are all from Africa. Their offices are located in Henderson and for more information about their services and programmes please visit

[www.africanwelfare.org.nz](http://www.africanwelfare.org.nz)



*Participants at the New Zealand African Welfare Services Trust holiday programme sponsored by the NZAF.*

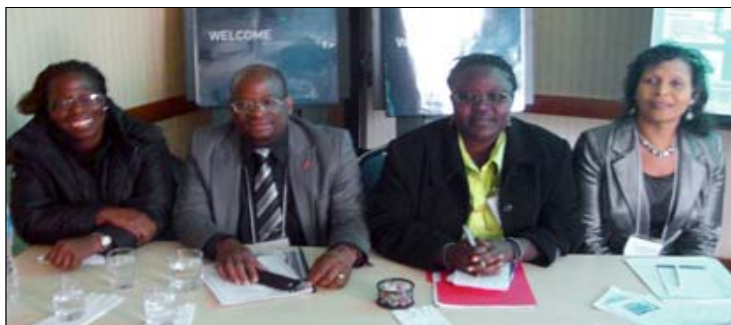
## International Connections

The NZAF African Communities team is happy to have developed professional connections with similar international organisations. In March 2011, Tuwe was invited to speak at two conferences in Ottawa, Canada. This trip was facilitated by the African Black Diaspora Global Network (ABDGN) and funded by Health Canada. Many thanks to these two organisations for making this trip possible.

The first conference (Health Canada) focused on HIV issues in the developed countries with high resources and low HIV prevalence. The second conference was also organised by the ABDGN with the objective of examining new and emerging issues related to HIV and challenges within the African/Caribbean communities domiciled in the developed countries. Tuwe loved Canada, in general, but as a man from the Sunshine City of Harare, he found the weather in Ottawa both freezing and terrifying; the temperature during his visit fell to -26 degrees celsius.

After the conferences, Tuwe had an opportunity to network with four large HIV organisations in Toronto, Canada. This networking gave the NZAF an opportunity to learn what other organisations are doing and also to share our experiences with them.

In May 2011, Tuwe was invited by the Australian Federation of AIDS Organizations (AFAO) to speak at their first African Conference, in Sydney, Australia. The participants, most of whom were Africans, came from all over Australia. Tuwe shared his knowledge and experience of working with African community members in New Zealand over several years. Many thanks to AFAO for the invitation.



Top; Tuwe (second left) with presenters from New Zealand and Australia in Ottawa, Canada. Lwr Left: Snowy Ottawa City. Lwr Right: Tuwe speaking at the AFAO conference in Sydney, Australia.

## Africa on Board!

In March 2011, Auckland Mayor Len Brown established the Ethnic People's Advisory Panel (EPAP) whose purpose is to strategically advise the Mayor and Council on subjects relating to Auckland's diverse ethnic communities. After a gruelling recruitment and selection process with approximately 100 applicants, Tuwe was successful and has been appointed to the 12 member Board.



Tuwe (centre) with the members of the Auckland City Ethnic People's Advisory Panel and Auckland Council.

## Business and Political Networking

The NZAF African Communities team was invited to a diplomatic function in Auckland where Chris Jones was appointed Honorary Consul of the Republic of Botswana to New Zealand. The occasion was graced by the Botswana High Commissioner, H.E. Molosiwa Selepeng as well as the New Zealand Minister of Trade and Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon Tim Groser. Several government officials, ambassadors and business people were present and in a press release announcing the appointment Mr. Selepeng said Botswana attaches great importance to its longstanding bilateral ties with New Zealand.

"The Government and people of Botswana are very pleased to appoint Mr. Jones as the Honorary Consul for Botswana as he is an experienced businessman and entrepreneur who has done more to facilitate trade and greater understanding between Africa and New Zealand than any other Kiwi we know. We know Chris will make a significant contribution to both Botswana and New Zealand in his new role."

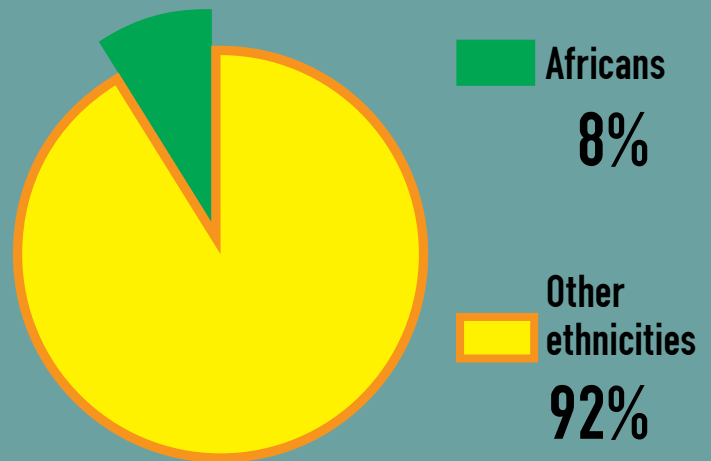
Mr Molosiwa Selepeng made an official three-day visit to New Zealand from 15 - 18 June.

## HIV Diagnoses Rates

In March, the latest HIV figures from the AIDS Epidemiology Group at the University of Otago were released and showed that the downward trend of HIV diagnoses for heterosexuals has continued. But the news is not all good; more people from African communities in New Zealand are living with HIV than people from any other heterosexual group. Overall, 149 people were diagnosed with HIV in 2010; ninety of those were gay and bisexual men, and 35 were heterosexual. Of the people heterosexually infected, 12 people were African, or 8% of the total number of people diagnosed.

Many of the people diagnosed in 2010 were not tested for HIV until their infection was past the point when treatment should have begun. These people may have had HIV and been sexually active for a long time before they were diagnosed which means they missed out on essential treatment and they were also likely to be more infectious. Testing, which is free at the NZAF, will remain critical if New Zealand is to control the HIV epidemic.

The best estimate of the number of people living with HIV in New Zealand in 2010 is 1800. The majority of these will be gay and bisexual men, with people from African communities living in New Zealand the second group most at risk of HIV.



2010 HIV diagnoses in New Zealand by ethnicity



Africa Day celebrations in Auckland. (L) Hon Anthony Mongalo, South African High Commissioner. (C) The Carribbeanz Southern Stars entertaining in Auckland. (R) Mr Boubacar Coulibaly, Auckland African Community President.

## Africa Day

Each year, on 25 May, Africa celebrates its political emancipation from colonialism. This year's celebrations were held on Saturday, 28 May in the major three centres in New Zealand; Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

In Auckland, we were blessed to have Hon Anthony Mongalo, the South African High Commissioner, join us. Boubacar Coulibaly, President of the African Community in Auckland addressed the gathering and Tuwe spoke on behalf of the NZAF.



(L to R) Her Worship, Mayor of Wellington Celia Wade-Brown, Sam Manzanza and Fungisai Foto, NZAF African Communities Engagement Coordinator at Africa Day celebrations in Wellington.

In Wellington, Mayor Celia Wade-Brown graced the occasion and in Christchurch, the NZAF African Communities team had the privilege of hosting the celebrations where many African groups performed.

