



Patrick Mdlletshe is a human rights activist.

PATRICK WEARS MANY HATS

Driving change matters most to him reduce HIV/Aids within the key population," he said.

By NOKO MASHILO
GROWING up, Patrick Mdlletshe missed three years of school between 1992 and 1994 due to political instability in KZN.

This led to him only finishing high school aged 23.

When he returned to school in 1995, he became a human rights activist who ensured there was social change in the community. The 46-year-old said his participation in human rights became stronger after Gugu Dlamini, who was a nurse, was stoned to death for revealing her HIV status.

"That saddened me and got me involved in the fight for the rights of people living

with HIV/Aids," said Patrick, who was once a delegate at the International Aids Conference in KZN in 2000.

Today, Patrick wears many hats.

He is the national deputy chairman of Treatment Action Campaign, co-chairman of the Provincial Aids Council of KwaZulu-Natal, and provincial chairman of Civil Society in KZN.

He said as the provincial chairman of the civil society, he led all 18 sectors of the provincial Aids council in spearheading the response to HIV in KZN.

"I also ensure their voices are heard, come up with peer programme support to

the provincial chairman of civil society in 2013 after being a member of Treatment Action Campaign for 12 years, where he was mandated to represent people living with HIV/Aids.

In December, Patrick was a facilitator at the International Conference on Aids and Sexual Transmitted diseases in Africa, which took place in Durban.

"My focus was on Women Now Conference that discussed science and research at community level. At the same platform, we touched the importance of vaccination. Science tell us people with chronic diseases need to vaccinate," said Patrick.