

# November is Disability Awareness month

LIEZELLE KUMALO

IN RECOGNITION of vulnerable people, the department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities will be launching disability awareness month tomorrow at the Umnini Thusong Centre, Umgababa, eThekweni.

Premier Dr Zweli Mkhize and the deputy minister for the department, Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu, will launch the campaign, which will run until December 3.

Karen Losch of Wheelchair Tennis SA, says few individuals outside the disability sector know that November is the month dedicated to raising awareness of the disabled and their challenges.

“I believe that including International Disability Day on the calendar has gone a long way in raising awareness, however, few individuals outside the disability sector know about it. This should be publicised more and positive initiatives and stories should be highlighted and celebrated.”

She said the public should be educated about the legal requirements with regard to disability and information should be made available.

“Educate people on the legal requirements with regard to disability, such as building guidelines on accessibility of toilets, hotel and guest house requirements. More could be done to promote the availability of information, if you want to make your establishment more disabled-friendly,” she said.

She said disabled individuals needed to promote disability and integration so as to remove society’s fear of the unknown and promote integration and acceptance.

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