



To : Editors & Health Journalists

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National Cancer Registry and partners to unveil Cancer Survivors Month plans

The National Cancer Registry (NCR), based at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), in partnership with Living With Cancer South Africa, a non-profit organisation, and Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA), will host the Cancer Survivors Month plans pre-launch on Tuesday, 27 May 2025. Observed annually in June, Cancer Survivors Month celebrates the strength, resilience, and perseverance of individuals who have overcome cancer. It is a time to honour their courage, acknowledge their journey, and offer support to those still battling the disease.

At the pre-launch, the three organisations will pay tribute to cancer survivors and unveil a symbolic giant ribbon statue, which will be installed at the NICD. The statue was generously sponsored by Mr Johan Groenewald, who lost his beloved wife, Ms Heidi Groenewald, to cancer in October last year, a gesture that stands as a deep personal tribute and a beacon of remembrance for all families affected by the disease.

Dr Mazvita Muchengeti, Head of the NCR, said: "We look forward to unveiling our plans for Cancer Survivors Month, developed in collaboration with our partners. It is important to commemorate survivors and provide a space for those who have lost loved ones to reflect and remember." These sentiments were echoed by Ms Belinda Wagner, founder of Living With Cancer SA, who started the organisation in 2017 after being diagnosed with a rare form of cancer.

"Cancer Survivors Month is more than a celebration – it is a call to recognise every life touched by cancer. This initiative gives voice to the silent strength of survivors, the enduring love of families, and the memories of those we have lost. Through this partnership with the National Cancer Registry, we are not only honouring journeys of survival but also igniting awareness, advocacy, and action for a better future in cancer care," Ms Wagner. Members of the media are invited to attend the event and engage with representatives from the NCR and Living With Cancer SA.

Event Details:

Date: Tuesday, 27 May 2025

Venue: NICD PRF Building

Time: 11:30

To RSVP, please email media@nicd.ac.za

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For enquiries and interview requests, please contact: Media@nicd.ac.za.

About NCR

The South African National Cancer Registry (NCR) is a division of the National Health Laboratory Services housed at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases. The NCR serves as South Africa's main source of national cancer incidence data. Since 1986, the NCR has conducted pathology-based cancer surveillance, where data on cancer cases diagnosed by histology, cytology and bone marrow aspirate and trephine are collected, analysed and reported annually. Visit the [NICD](http://www.nicd.ac.za) website to read more about the registry.

About Living With Cancer SA

Living With Cancer was established by Belinda Wagner in 2017, after she was diagnosed with a rare cancer. She wanted to create a platform where people who were impacted by cancer could share their experiences, inspire hope, gain courage and support each other. Visit the [Living With Cancer](http://www.livingwithcancer.co.za) website to read more about the organisation.

About CANSA

A leader in the fight against cancer in SA, since 1931, the vision of the CANCER Association of South Africa (CANSA) is to lead South Africa towards a cancer-free society. CANSA is a leading role-player in cancer research, and the scientific findings and knowledge gained from our research are used to realign our Health Programme, as well as strengthen our Watchdog Role to the greater benefit of the public. Visit the CANSA [website](http://www.cansa.org.za) to read more about the organisation.

Kind regards,

Mr Vuyo Sabani: Senior Communications Manager

National Institute for Communicable Diseases

