MINISTER’S MESSAGE

WORLD CANCER DAY 2017 (4th February)

THEME:
WE CAN. I CAN.

World Cancer Day is commemorated around the world to highlight all the efforts done by the WHO, United Nation, Governments and non-governmental organisations towards the fight against cancer. It also serves as an opportune moment to disseminate messages about the cancer epidemic.

For this World Cancer Day (2017) the world is uniting against this disease that knows no borders and represents one of humanity’s most pressing health and financial concerns.

Taking place under the theme” We Can. I Can” World Cancer day 2017 will explore how everyone - as a collective or as individuals can do their part to reduce the global burden of cancer.

By 2030 new cancer cases are projected to reach 21.7 million every year and 70 % of which will be in the developing countries. 13 million people will die from cancer worldwide each year. Over one million of the cancer cases will occur in the African region.

In 2015 in the Seychelles a total number of 225 new cancer cases have been diagnosed of which 119 were males and 106 females.

A total of 135 cancer related deaths was recorded --- 77 were males and 58 were females.

The 5 top priority cancers occurring in the Seychelles are:
1. Prostate
2. Breast
3. Colorectal
4. Cervix
5. Head and neck.

Our current cancer trend is a reflection of our lifestyle which is characterized by:
1. Tobacco use
2. Use and abuse of substances such as drugs and alcohol
3. Consumption of unhealthy diets
4. Lack of physical activity
5. Exposure to environmental pollution and other infectious agents
If we all agree to make healthier lifestyle changes then one is sure of beating the cancer scourge affecting the Seychellois population.

The Ministry of Health is currently developing its first National Cancer Control and Prevention Policy and it is anticipated that the completion of this important Policy will happen in 2017.

Once diagnosed with cancer a patient will have surgery either locally and/or overseas, followed by chemotherapy. Radiotherapy when required is done overseas.

A new Oncology Unit is being refurbished by the Ministry of Health in partnership with the Soroptimist International Club of Victoria and Seychelles Round Table.

Just as cancer affects everyone in different ways, all have the power to take various actions to reduce the impact that cancer has on individuals, families and communities.

World Cancer Day is a chance to reflect on what you can do, make a pledge and take action.

Whatever you choose to do, “We Can. I Can” make a difference in the fight against cancer.

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