

# 'One Love' march against Aids

Push for awareness

By **Ethienne Arends**

MASAKHE Paradise, part of the Kwanda Project in East London, recently held an HIV/Aids awareness march through the streets of Parkside and Pefferville.

Pefferville's Masakhe Paradise is part of the Kwanda reality TV series that documents a social development project.

The HIV awareness march was held because the disease is one of the issues that the project seeks to address. "We needed to take action because HIV/Aids is a major problem in the greater Pefferville community. 'One Love', the motto of the march, was to show the community that they should only have sexual relations with one person at a time because they risk getting the disease. The One Love programme is a Soul City project," said Masakhe Paradise's HIV programme coordinator, Ntombemba Madlanga.

Schools, boys' brass brigades and



**RAISING AWARENESS:** Members of Masakhe Paradise's HIV programme on an HIV/Aids awareness march through the streets of Pefferville recently (September 19). Pictured are HIV programme coordinator Ntombemba Madlanga (red shirt) with Tamia Arends (pink hat) and Jernade Arends holding up an Aids poster.

even bikers joined the community in the march against the incurable disease on Saturday, September 19.

The Kwanda TV series requires

five teams of 100 community members from different provinces to tackle various issues including HIV, vulnerable children, alcohol abuse and

economic and social development in their area. The Masakhe Paradise has, however, grown to more than 100 people because of the eagerness

of the Pefferville community for positive change in the impoverished area.

Their HIV programme consists of 20 facilitators who underwent an intensive five-month training course and are, after yesterday's (October 7) certificate ceremony, now required to give back to the community. "We will now return to the area as community workers that will offer HIV/Aids education and support those who are already HIV-positive. We will also tackle alcohol and drug related problems.

"At present we are in the process of writing to Soul City to ask them for funds to set up our own community centre where we will deal with these and other issues," said HIV programme life skills co-ordinator and Masakhe vice secretary, Geraldine Ruiters.

Besides the HIV programme, Masakhe Paradise has also set up other social task programmes for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), drug and alcohol abuse, landscaping, sewing and silk-screening.

The Kwanda programme's message is for communities to "do it for themselves". Awards will be given to the teams as well as to viewer communities who have taken action as a result of watching the series.

