

Milk Overdue

Melie Erasmus

POLOKWANE - HIV positive mothers in the Thohoyandou area are feeding their babies water not to transmit the disease as the department of health did not deliver formula milk to clinics in the area.

The problem stems from unpaid and overdue Nestlé accounts, resulting in the company halting further delivery to the health department two weeks ago.

Tlan Johnson from the Thohoyandou Victim Empowerment Programme (TVEP) on Wednesday said the majority of the clinics only have a few, or no tins in stock.

They have even appealed to the SA National Aids Council in Johannesburg for help.

"The situation is ridiculous. Many babies will be living with Aids since government's Aids programme is being undermined when babies don't receive the proper nutrition or are breast-fed because of the unavailability of formula," Johnson said.

According to departmental spokesperson Sophie Sekole, the department paid Nestlé on April 30 and ordered 147 000 tins two weeks ago.

Nestlé spokesperson Theo Atrakwe yesterday confirmed that

the overdue amount was settled and orders reinstated.

He did not want to divulge the outstanding amount, but said delivery has since commenced.

Sekole confirmed the delivery of the order yesterday, but now, distribution seems to be a problem as representatives from clinics in rural areas

have to find transportation to bigger centres from where the orders can be faxed or phoned through.

Even though Sekole promised to look into the matter, she also suggested that clinic staff collect milk from the depot or order by email.

"None of these clinics has even have fax machines," TVEP collected tins from Siloam



Skole help mekaar. Gr. 9-leerders vir Lizette de Villiers van PHS. Lizette is Muller Coetzee, Nico van Zyl en Rikus du Preez het gehelp.

"Small facilities are non-existent in the meanwhile, he said the TVEP collected tins from Siloam

formula by using taxis.

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