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31 July 2008

VERY URGENT

By Fax, Email and Hand

ATT: Premier Lynne Brown
Premier Western Cape

ATT: Mayor Helen Zille
Mayor of Cape Town

ATT: Hildegard Fast
Western Cape Provincial JOC
021 932 2968

Dear Madams,

RE: CESSATION OF TAC PROVISION OF HUMANITARIAN AID TO DISPLACED PERSONS

1. This letter serves to confirm that the Treatment Action Campaign will be unable to continue its humanitarian aid, for the displaced persons who were victims of xenophobic violence, beyond Monday 11 August 2008.
2. On 22 and 23 May 2008 violence against foreign nationals broke out in the Western Cape. The TAC immediately mobilised and by the night of Friday 23 May had established a 24-hour call centre. One of the central elements of our early involvement was humanitarian aid. By mid-way through the first week we had set up a fully-fledged distribution centre and were providing food, sanitary products, baby food, blankets and other necessities to approximately 8 000 each day at 84 sites around Cape Town.

3. Within the first 7 days of the disaster the TAC had spent over a million rand and distributed another half a million rand's worth of donated goods.
4. At the end of the first week the TAC assumed that the responsible government and government funded agencies would sufficiently cover the material needs of the displaced persons, we therefore scaled back our aid. In the middle of June it became clear that government was not adequately catering for the needs those displaced.
5. For the last six weeks the TAC has continued to supply food, baby food, baby products, sanitary products, blankets and other basics. At the peak of our operation we were receiving requests from and dispatching deliveries to 103 sites housing displaced persons.
6. As of 30 July 2008 the TAC has spent R 2,744,891.50 on direct humanitarian assistance.
7. The funds available will run out on or before Monday 11 August 2008.
8. The TAC will continue to run its monitoring and assessment project at all the sites.
9. One aspect of our monitoring project is the collating of requests for material goods. The TAC will continue to immediately log all requests received with the camp/site managers and the provincial JOC as we are made aware of them. This has been the procedure we have followed for the last 6 weeks. Thus far we have placed x many requests on behalf of those living at or running sites. We have followed up with all of these and government has acted on y many. Due to governments failure we have dispatched the necessary goods.
10. We trust that this letter serves to give government enough notice in order to ensure that the requests logged will all be acted on promptly.
11. We are happy at any point to discuss our operation and pass over any information or skills.
12. Please ensure that all site managers and relevant personnel are informed as to the contents of this letter.

Yours Sincerely,

GILAD ISAACS
Coordinator of Humanitarian Relief
Treatment Action Campaign