



10th Floor, 85 Main Street,
Marshalltown,
Johannesburg, 2001, South Africa

PO Box 31160, Braamfontein,
2017, South Africa

Tel: +27 (0)21 422 1700

www.tac.org.za
info@tac.org.za

NPO Number: 043-770
VAT Number: 4070239977
Registration: 2000/029181/08

Eastern Cape Office
18 Embassy Building
Jacaranda Street
Lusikisiki, 4820
Tel: 039 253 1951

Free State Office
Office 205 B, 2nd Floor,
78 Charlotte Maxeke Street,
Bloemfontein 9301
Tel: 087 803 2020

Gauteng Office
10th Floor, 85 Main Street,
Marshalltown,
Johannesburg, 2001
Tel: +27 (0)21 422 1700

KwaZulu-Natal Office
Idube Building, 2nd Floor
249 Burger Street
Pietermaritzburg, 3201
Tel: 033 394 0845

Limpopo Office
Office No3 Maledza Lifestyle
Complex
Section A12,
Street Number 2176
Giyani, Limpopo.
Tel: 015 811 9300

Mpumalanga Office
Office 4 2nd Floor, Trigon Building,
100 Joubert Street, Ermelo, 2351
Tel: 017 811-5085

Western Cape Office
ISIVIVANA
Cnr Julius Tsolelo & Mzala Streets
Village 3
Khayelitsha, Cape Town 7784
Tel: 021 364 5489

DIRECTORS
Anele Yawa
(General Secretary of TAC)

Nkhensani Mavasa
(Chairperson of TAC)

Qondisa Ngwenya
(Chairperson of the Board)

Lord Ntambw
(Treasurer)

Vuyiseka Dubula-Majola

Jane Barrett

Mbuyiselo Botha

Eric Goemaere

Thembeka Gwagwa

Moray Hathorn

Mark Heywood

Deputy President

Cyril Ramaphosa

Per email: DeputyPresident@presidency.gov.za

CC:

National Minister of Health

Dr. Aaron Motsoaledi

Per email: mailaj@health.gov.za

SANAC Civil Society Forum Chairperson

Steve Letsike

Per email: steve@ac2.org.za

SANAC Board of Trustees Chairperson

Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba

Per email: ayandantsa@discovery.co.za

14th February 2017

Dear Honourable Deputy President,

The National Council of the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) met on 11th & 12th February and discussed the state of the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) as well as provincial, district and local AIDS councils. Following this meeting I have been mandated to write this letter to you in your capacity as SANAC Chairperson.

The TAC continues to regard SANAC as an important body to lead the response to HIV/AIDS and TB in South Africa, however we continue to be disappointed by its failures to actively address key threats to the AIDS response such as widespread medicine shortages/stockouts and the alarmingly high rates of infection among women.

The legitimacy of SANAC both nationally and internationally depends on good governance, accountability and transparency. This legitimacy is vital if SANAC is to play the role envisaged for it by the new NSP.

The TAC has previously expressed our dissatisfaction over the manner in which the CEO appointment has been handled. Further we are concerned that in the absence of a CEO, the SANAC secretariat is effectively being run by members of the Trust whose judgment has been questioned. Our issues remain unresolved.

In our letter to the previous Chair of the Trust dated 23rd January 2016 the TAC expressed our opposition to new civil society elections taking place unless they are organised properly and independently. As it stands many issues remain including the following:

- The outgoing Coordinating Committee has failed to provide an end of term report to the CSF;
- The criterion and credentials necessary to be a member of the Coordinating Committee remain unclear;



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- It is unclear if all organisations have been properly audited in the CSF; and
- SANAC CSF terms of reference remain in draft form and include inconsistencies. They state concurrently that the SANAC Secretariat will manage the process of elections while in contradiction that an independent body mandated by the CSF Coordinating Committee will conduct the elections. In addition, different versions of the terms of reference have been presented at the special sectors meeting and the consultation meetings leading to confusion over which is the working document.

At a meeting held on 30th January 2017 between the Chair of the Trust and the TAC, it was agreed that an investigation would be carried out by the SANAC Board on allegations of conflict of interest against the CSF Chairperson who is also a Board member in line with Trust Deeds. Feedback is required on the outcomes of that investigation.

Lastly while SANAC has shown strong commitment to ensuring that the leadership of other sectors is representative, we raise concerns brought to our attention by TAC youth women leaders. These concerns regard the She Conquers programme – a programme representing and meant to promote young women leadership. However, it is being led by Mfundisi Mabalane. Having a man, who is no longer a young person, lead this programme undermines the She Conquers programme in its entirety. He fails to represent this demographic in any form and we believe there are young women leaders who could fill this position.

We therefore request an urgent meeting between yourself, Minister of Health Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, Chairperson of SANAC Civil Society Forum (CSF) Steve Letsike, SANAC Board of Trustees Chairperson Dr Ayanda Ntsaluba and the TAC.

TAC requests this meeting within the next five working days in order to address these issues in good time ahead of the planned elections of the National CSF leadership taking place between 22 – 23 February 2017.

Yours sincerely,

Anele Yawa
General Secretary
Treatment Action Campaign