

MEMORANDUM

World AIDS Day – 1 December 2016

HIV and TB remains a crisis in South Africa. Every year there are still around 280 000 new HIV infections in South Africa and in the region of 140 000 HIV-related deaths. To turn the tide on HIV and TB we need all government departments and all provinces to take this crisis seriously. With the exception of a few dedicated individuals, HIV and TB is however not a priority for our national and provincial governments.

While some progress is being made, we worry that it is too slow. We are also worried that civil society is being taken less and less seriously by those in government – as is clear from the fact that demands we made at the International AIDS Conference in July have largely not been taken seriously.

This World AIDS Day we will not be fooled by rhetoric. We will not give politicians a free ride. We will judge you by your actions. HIV and TB is a crisis in our lives. We demand that government treats it that way.

1. To Gauteng Premier David Makura:

At least 36 people (possibly over 70) with mental health problems died after being moved from the Life Esidimeni facility in Gauteng. This happened after MEC for Health Qedani Mahlangu was warned that moving these people would place their lives at risk. Such disregard for the lives of people with mental health problems is unacceptable in a MEC for Health. In addition, we have found the public healthcare system in Gauteng more widely to be in a constant state of crisis. Recently it was reported that over 70 000 people living with HIV has been lost to follow up. We do not have any confidence that MEC Mahlangu can turn the situation around.

- We demand that MEC Mahlangu must be replaced with an appropriately qualified and committed person.
- Given the deteriorating situation in the provincial healthcare system we demand that Premier Makura meets in person with TAC leadership within two weeks of today.

2. To South Africa's Health Minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi:

At the International AIDS Conference in July we made the following two demands of Minister Motsoaledi:

“(a) We demand that before World AIDS Day 2016 the Minister, working with the SA National AIDS Council, Treasury and civil society, develop a costed National Strategic Plan to ensure all people living with HIV in South Africa have access to

antiretroviral treatment by 2020. This plan must identify and make provision for the health workers and management systems needed to ensure treatment for all.”

“(b)2. We demand that before World AIDS Day 2016, the Minister publishes a finalised policy regulating the employment of Community Health Workers across all provinces in South Africa under fair, dignified and unionised working conditions.

- Today is World AIDS Day. The Minister has failed to meet both these deadlines. We demand an explanation from the Minister in writing within one week from today.

3. To South Africa's Deputy President and the Chairperson of the SA National AIDS Council Cyril Ramaphosa:

The success of South Africa's new National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs will depend on whether Premiers and mayors buy into the plan and ensure that provincial and district AIDS councils are functional. As head of SANAC the Deputy President must drive the implementation of the NSP. We therefor demand that the Deputy President uses his influence to compel all Premier's to chair their provincial AIDS councils.

We also remind the Deputy President of this demand we made of the South African Presidency at the International AIDS Conference in July:

“We demand that the Presidency announce concrete and immediate steps to ensure that all young people in South Africa have easy access to condoms and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education in schools. Failure to do this will make a mockery of government's efforts to reduce infection rates in young women and girls.”

There has been no response from the Presidency to this demand. We demand an explanation from the Deputy President in writing within one week from today.

Signatures :

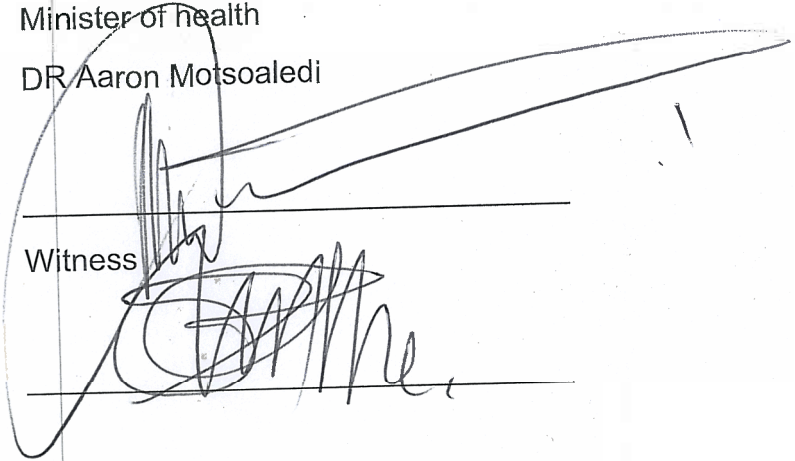
Deputy Minister of South Africa

Honourable Cyril Ramaphosa

Witness

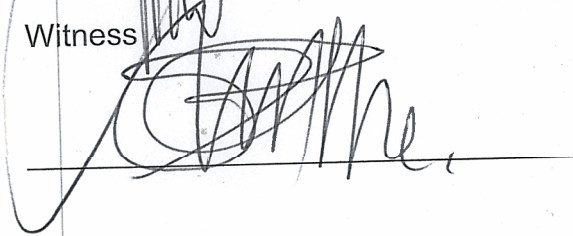
Minister of health

DR Aaron Motsoaledi



A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is highly cursive and extends significantly to the right of the line.

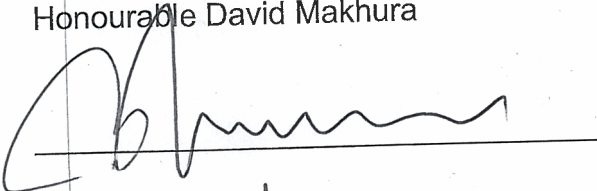
Witness



A handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat compact.

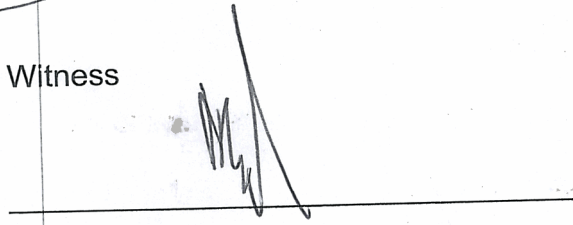
Premier of Gauteng Province

Honourable David Makhura



A handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and flows across the line.

Witness



A handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and appears to be a witness's name.

