

**Remarks and introduction of the Health Minister Dr Zweli Mkhize by  
Provincial Chairperson of the KZN Council on AIDS and Premier of the  
Province of KwaZulu-Natal Mr Sihle Zikalala**

**LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS PLAN IN RESPONSE TO HUMAN  
RIGHTS & GENDER-RELATED BARRIERS TO HIV AND TB SERVICES**

**GUGU DLAMINI MEMORIAL PARK, eTHEKWINI METRO, KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**

**11 JUNE 2019**

Programme Director,  
Minister of Health – Dr Zweli Mkhize  
Mayor of eThekweni Municipality  
KZN Health MEC Nomagugu Simelane-Zulu and all other Health MECs from other  
province  
All Members of the Executive Council present  
Members of parliament  
Mayors and Councillors  
Representatives of the South African National Aids Council  
Representatives of all Aids councils from all provinces  
All stakeholders in the Fight Against HIV, Aids and TB  
Health workers  
Members of society  
Members of the media;  
Ladies and gentlemen;

Good Afternoon

As KZN government we would like to thank all of you for attending the march and this important launch of the Human Rights Plan.

Importantly, as the new provincial executive council we appreciate the fact that today's gathering and the South African Aids Conference - gives us the opportunity to interact with stakeholders in the fight against the HIV, Aids and TB.

We thank the South African Government, SANAC, organisers – co-organiser of this march and this important conference for bringing it to this province.

The National Human Rights Plan, which Minister Dr Zweli Mkhize will speak about, will form the basis of our programme of action as we move forward.

Critically, we have no doubt that the deliberations of the SA Aids Conference will strengthen our resolve to drive down new HIV and TB infections.

We want to state that that during this term of office, we undertake to continue with campaigns and the mobilization of communities to deal with persistent high levels of new infections.

We remain concerned about new infections and the fact that - the adolescent girls and young women are disproportionately affected. This is an area we want to focus on – as we move forward.

Programme Director, it should be remembered that last year, this province hosted the Launch of the Lesbian, Gays, Bisexual, Trans/Intersex HIV Aids Plan.

The high number of distinguished participants at that conference highlighted both a strong interest in human rights, in the context of the fight against HIV and AIDS, as well as a shared concern that this country has unresolved problems in this area.

In various speeches and statements during that conference, speakers referred to the urgent need to overcome stigma and discrimination – which are the major barriers in the fight against HIV, AIDS and TB.

**Programme Director**, we are therefore grateful that today we are gathered to launch a concrete plan on how to deal with stigma and discrimination. We need to deal with all barriers that are experienced by people affected by HIV, Aids and TB.

We must deal with social exclusion and discrimination – in healthcare facilities, homes, recreational facilities, schools, churches, in the work place and other community gatherings.

Overcoming this hurdle is essential to effectively reach key population groups – to both prevent HIV transmission, and stimulate adequate levels of support from healthcare and social services.

This is the work that will be undertaken by all members of the Provincial Council on Aids moving forward.

Programme Director, at this stage, allow me to introduce – our Health Minister.

Dr Zweli Mkhize is a medical doctor, legislator and politician. He was born in Willowfontein, Pietermaritzburg.

He graduated from the University of Natal (now University of KwaZulu-Natal) in 1982. In 1983 he did his internship at McCords Hospital in Durban before being employed at Edendale Hospital in his hometown, Pietermaritzburg.

Dr Mkhize has played a pivotal role in the process leading towards the establishment of a democratic government.

In 1986 he went into exile and continued with his medical practice in Swaziland and Zimbabwe. He returned to South Africa in 1991 to work at Themba Hospital in the Eastern Transvaal. Later the same year he started his private practice in Pietermaritzburg.

Between 1991 and 1994 he served as a member of the ANC's National Health Secretariat, the structure that was tasked with the responsibility of developing the

country's health policy. He co-founded the Regional Health Forum and became a member of the National Health Forum.

He served as MEC for Health in KwaZulu-Natal for ten years (1994 to 2004), making him the longest serving provincial health MEC in the country.

Dr Mkhize was behind the drafting of the National Health Insurance when he served as the Chair of the ANC Subcommittee on Health and Education.

Dr Zweli Mkhize was Chancellor of the University of KwaZulu-Natal from 2009 until 2017 and he was the Treasurer General of the ANC, having been elected at ANC's 53rd National Conference in December 2012.

He was appointed as the Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs on the 27th February 2018. He is the Chancellor of Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University and our Minister of Health.

Let us welcome to the podium Dr Zweli Mkhize