



### **Is South Africa turning the tide on TB?**

This was the headline goal at the opening of the conference.

The 4th SA TB Conference has officially started yesterday at the ICC Durban. Conference Chair Prof Bavesh Kana welcomed speakers and delegates. During his opening speech Prof Kana made an emphasis on that society needs to work together to turn the tides of TB. He also emphasised that South Africa has achieved some many things working as a collective so there is no way South Africa cannot be able eradicate TB and HIV. Prof Kana highlighted 4 aspects that must be considered with regards to the eradication of TB which includes information, biology, advocacy and case finding. He stressed the importance of preserving humanity and intimacy by listening to the TB patients who provide information about what needs to be done to decrease the spread of TB and to cure those who have been infected.

The second plenary speaker was Dr Christopher Dye, Director of Health and Information in the office of HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria and neglected tropical diseases from World Health Organisation. His presentation was based on after 2015: TB in the new era of development. Dr Dye provided information to prove that South Africa is not yet ready to meet the deadline of the new era of development for TB. He also showed that South Africa like Sweden has the potential to decrease the power that TB has on society.

Mr David Mametja, Chief Director for TB control and management from the National Health Department. His presentation to the contrary proved that the South African government is fighting hard to eradicate TB, though they have not completely won the fight their efforts are paying off. He also mentioned that there are challenges that the government is facing in having to achieve and meet the goals of the 2015: TB in the new era of development. Finally, Mr Mametja provided information that proves that TB can be cured and better managed in South Africa.

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Health Dr Sibongiseni Dlhomo was invited to talk about the provinces' way forward to eradicate TB. KwaZulu-Natal has been proved to have a high rate of people infected with TB. MEC Dlhomo said that the province is working on changing this perception by increasing service delivery to TB patients and ensuring that Health Care Workers are equipped with the necessary skills to provide quality services to the patients.

The Minister of Health Aaron Motsoaledi is expected to speak at the closing of the conference on June 13, 2014.

For more information and updates follow us on twitter @SATB2014.

**Ends**

### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

#### **About The Foundation for Professional Development (FPD)**

The Foundation for Professional Development (FPD) is a South African Private Institution of Higher Education dedicated to building a better society through education and capacity development. FPD annually provides

management and clinical training to 50 000 healthcare professionals and managers across Africa and has support the initiation on ART of more than 390 000 PLHIV. FPD also organises national and international conferences as a conduit to shape public and policy perspectives. FPD's involvement in conferences dates back to the Durban in 2000 conference where it provided the conference secretariat. For more information please visit [www.foundation.co.za](http://www.foundation.co.za).

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