

Department of Health

# Annual Report 2005/06

Private Bag X828  
Pretoria  
0001

Tel: 012 312 000  
Web: [www.doh.gov.za](http://www.doh.gov.za)

RP210/2006  
ISBN: 0-621-36843-1



**health**

Department:  
Health  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

## SUBMISSION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2005/06

1. In terms of Section 40(1) (d) of the Public Finance Management Act of 1999 (as amended), the Public Service Act of 1994 (as amended), I hereby submit to the Minister the Annual Report of the Department of Health for the financial year 2005/06.
2. In terms of Section 65(1) of the Public Finance Management Act of 1999 (as amended) the Minister is required to table the report to the National Assembly by the 30th September 2006.



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Director-General

Date: 2006-08-28

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## Foreword by the Minister

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Soon after the 2004 elections, the Minister and the MECs for Health met and agreed on the priorities for the health sector for the next five years. These priorities are reported against by the Director-General in his introduction and include broadly the following: improvements in governance and management; improvements in quality of care; strengthening priority health programmes; strengthening our international health initiatives; strengthening human resources for health; and strengthening monitoring, evaluation and communication.

In his State of the Nation address in January 2006 the President noted that this is the 'age of hope'. I am pleased that the Department of Health has been and will continue to contribute to the 'age of hope' through our interventions to strengthen the national health system in ways that restores the dignity of our people.

The Report contains a large number of achievements of the National Department of Health which were successful because of the roles played by colleagues at provincial, district and facility levels of the health system. In the final analysis our successes are only achievable through the dedication, loyalty and perseverance of our dedicated personnel. As 2006 has been declared as "human resources for health" year by the World Health Organisation, it is proper that we dedicate this Annual Report to our health personnel, particularly those that work in the public health sector.

Besides saluting health workers, the role played by individuals, families and communities are central to being healthy. We cannot over-emphasise that individuals, families and communities have and must continue to take responsibility to promote health, prevent illness, to seek care as early as possible and to ensure that treatment is adhered to. We have provided a legal framework in the National Health Act for the establishment of clinic and community health centre committees as well as hospital boards. Whilst most of our facilities do have these committees and boards we would like to see greater participation of communities in providing oversight over the functioning of these facilities.

A strong social mobilisation programme that reaches every community effectively is what is needed to ensure that everyone is aware of what is needed to ensure a healthy South African population. The Department's Vuka South Africa, Move for your Health campaign encourages South Africans to engage in physical activity and our healthy lifestyles campaigns have focussed on healthy eating as well as responsible alcohol use and the importance to stop smoking.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Deputy Minister and the MECs of Health for their support during the year. I also wish to place on record the support of the chairpersons and members of the Health Portfolio Committee as well as the Select Committee on Social Services in piloting legislation and the oversight function which they conducted over the activities of the Department of Health.

Finally, I wish to thank the Director-General and his staff for their support and commitment to improving the health of our people during the financial year.

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**Dr Manto Tshabalala-Msimang**  
Minister Health

Date: 08/08/2006

## Foreword by the Minister

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Minister Health

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