

FOREWORD BY THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



South Africa faces a quadruple burden of diseases consisting of HIV and AIDS; communicable diseases; non-communicable diseases; and violence and injuries. The consequence of this is high levels of mortality and morbidity. In 2009, Statistics South Africa (STATSSA) estimated the life expectancy of South Africans to be 53,5 years for males and 57,2 years for females.

One of government's major goals in the Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) for 2009–2014 is to improve the health profile of all South Africans. This Strategic Plan of the National Department of Health (DoH) for 2010/11-2012/13 ushers us into the second year of the implementation of the 10 Point Plan of the health sector for 2009-2014, which is aimed at creating a well functioning health system capable of producing improved health outcomes.

The 10 Point Plan consists of the following priorities:

- i. Provision of Strategic leadership and creation of a social compact for better health outcomes;
- ii. Implementation of National Health Insurance (NHI);
- iii. Improving the Quality of Health Services;
- iv. Overhauling the health care system and improve its management;
- v. Improving Human Resources Management, Planning and Development;
- vi. Revitalization of infrastructure;
- vii. Accelerated implementation of HIV & AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections National Strategic Plan 2007-11 and increase focus on TB and other communicable diseases;
- viii. Mass mobilisation for better health for the population;
- ix. Review of the Drug Policy; and
- x. Strengthening Research and Development.

In January 2010, Government adopted a new outcome-based approach to accelerate attainment of the objectives outlined in the MTSF 2009-2014. In keeping with this new approach, the health sector will devote particular attention to four key areas, namely: increasing life expectancy; combating HIV and AIDS; decreasing the burden of diseases from Tuberculosis and improving Health Systems Effectiveness. Focusing on these areas, the health sector must produce twenty (20) deliverables over the next five years. These are:

- i. Increased Life Expectancy at Birth;
- ii. Reduced Child Mortality;

- iii. Decreased Maternal Mortality Ratio;
- iv. Managing HIV Prevalence;
- v. Reduced HIV Incidence;
- vi. Expanded access to the PMTCT Programme;
- vii. Improved TB Case Finding;
- viii. Improved TB outcomes;
- ix. Improved access to Antiretroviral Treatment for HIV-TB co-infected patients;
- x. Decreased prevalence of Drug Resistant -TB;
- xi. Revitalisation of Primary Health Care;
- xii. Improved Physical Infra-structure for Healthcare Delivery;
- xiii. Improved Patient Care and Satisfaction;
- xiv. Accreditation of health facilities for quality;
- xv. Enhanced Operational Management of Health Facilities;
- xvi. Improved access to Human Resources for Health;
- xvii. Improved Health Care Financing;
- xviii. Strengthened Health Information Systems (HIS);
- xix. Improved health services for the Youth and
- xx. Expanded access to Home Based Care and Community Health Workers.

The 10 Point of the Health Sector for 2009-2014 incorporates the 20 priority areas of the outcome-based MTSF, as well as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These linkages are reflected in detail in this document. Focused and systematic implementation of the 10 Point Plan must yield the results desired by all three sets of priorities.

Ambitious targets have been set for these priorities. It can no longer be business as usual. Planning, organisation, and delivery of health services delivery must reflect an added sense of urgency.

Successful implementation of the priorities outlined above necessitates that we revitalize the health system using the Primary Health Care (PHC) approach. At the advent of democracy in 1994, a great vision existed for the transformation of the health system in South Africa from one characterised by social and economic injustices, poverty, waste, inefficiency, and lack of control by communities and individuals over all aspects of their health, into a new health system based on the PHC approach and characterized inter alia by the principles of equity; quality, efficiency, integrated and comprehensive care, community involvement and intersectoral collaboration.

The White Paper for the Transformation of the Health System, released in 1997 accentuated the need to: decentralise management of health services; establish the District Health System to facilitate implementation of PHC; increase access to services for citizens; ensure the availability of good quality essential drugs in health facilities; strengthen disease prevention and health promotion in areas such as HIV and AIDS, and maternal, child and women's health; implement the Integrated Nutrition Programme to focus more on sustainable food security for the needy; and rationalise health financing through budget reprioritization. The health sector must return to this vision.

A new discourse on HIV and AIDS is being initiated. New policies and strategies will be implemented during 2010/11-2012/13 to combat the scourges of HIV and AIDS and Tuberculosis. All children less than 1 year of age who test positive for HIV will be initiated on treatment, irrespective of their CD4 count. Antiretroviral Treatment (ART) will be provided to pregnant women at CD4 count of 350 or less, to enhance maternal survival and reduce the possibility of vertical transmission. ART will also be provided to people co-infected with TB and HIV at a CD4 count of 350 and less. This will contribute significantly to reducing morbidity and mortality associated with TB and HIV and AIDS. Most importantly, prevention must remain the mainstay of all efforts to combat HIV and AIDS. The delivery of HIV and AIDS and TB programmes will be integrated. This integration of services will also extend to the delivery of Antenatal Care and the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV.

The Ministry of Health will process through Parliament 3 pieces of legislation during 2010/11 and 2011/12. The National Health Amendment Bill will create space for the review of the powers and functions of both the National and Provincial Departments of Health; facilitate the establishment of an independent accreditation body for health facilities; and enable the review of the current position on the licensing of blood transfusion services. This Bill will be tabled before Parliament before September 2010. The Health Laws Amendment Bill will also be developed and tabled in Parliament in 2011. This Bill will cover all important amendments to all Acts administered by the National DoH, to ensure that existing legislation reflect the government's priorities, where they are found to be inconsistent with these. The Ministry of Health will also submit to Parliament the National Health Insurance Bill, which will create the legal framework for the implementation of National Health Insurance (NHI).

Through this legal framework, the governance of the national health system will be strengthened, to ensure that we have a single focus on a common set of goals, and that the system acts in unison at all levels.

Working collectively with the Deputy Minister and all 9 Provincial MECs for Health, I commit myself to provide the stewardship required to ensure the successful implementation of this Strategic Plan for 2010/11-2012/13.



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