



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Knowledge Exchange Regional Meeting On Strengthening Regional Capacity To Manage The Burden Of TB And Occupational Lung Diseases in the Mining Sector**

**JOHANNESBURG, 07 July 2017** – The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Agency in collaboration with Departments of Health, Mineral Resources and Labour of South Africa will host a five-day regional Knowledge Exchange visit aimed at strengthening regional capacity to manage the burden of TB and occupational diseases in the mining sector from Monday next week.

The NEPAD Agency has identified South Africa as the country that can contribute in empowering other Southern African Development Community (SADC) Member States with knowledge, information and required skills to set up effective and efficient Occupational Health and Safety, and Mine Health Regulation System.

The regional Knowledge Exchange will be attended by the participating countries implementing the Southern Africa Tuberculosis and Health System Support (SATBHSS) Project namely; Malawi, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia. The kick-off ceremony will be held at the NEPAD Agency Head Office and will be officially opened by the Director-General of Health, Ms MP Matsoso at 9:00am on Monday, 10 July 2017.

Deliberations will include inputs by the NEPAD Agency, World Bank (WB), Global TB, Departments of Health, Mineral Resources and Labour on the three main components of the regional project, namely; underserved populations with a high TB and/or TB/HIV burden including mining communities, transport corridors and cross border areas with focus on the following strategic issues:

- innovative prevention, detection and treatment of TB,
- regional capacity for disease surveillance, diagnostics and management of TB and occupational lung diseases
- regional learning, innovation and project management

The programme of the regional meeting will run as follows

**Day 1** – Monday, 10 July:

Opening address at 9:00 and media briefing 10:00

**Day 2** – Tuesday, 11 July:

Morning visit to one-stop service centre for mine health services in Carletonville

Afternoon visit to Medical Bureau of Diseases (MBOD) and Commissioner for Compensation for Occupational Health (CCOD)

**Day 3** – Role of regulator in occupational health and safety in the mines, and inputs from the Global Fund TB in Mining Sector and a tour to National Institute for Occupational Health

**Day 4** – Human Resources, Capacity Building and Infrastructure

**Day 5** – Social Protection and Compensation, Financing of Occupation Health

Journalists are invited to attend the Opening Address as follows:

**Time:** 9:00

**Day:** Monday, 10 July 2017

**Venue:** NEPAD Offices, 230 George Street, Midrand

*Journalists interested in Carletonville mining visit must arrive at the NEPAD offices on Tuesday 11 July 7:00*

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