

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

To: Editors & Health Journalists  
Issued by: Department of Health  
Date: Monday, 19 June 2023

### **Department to host TB Indaba to strengthen response to the epidemic**

**Pretoria:** The Department of Health will on Tuesday, 20 June convene TB Indaba in Durban to create a platform for stakeholders from public and private sectors to discuss the successes, achievements, challenges facing the TB Programme and the priority areas for the future.

The event is part of build-up activities ahead of the 11<sup>th</sup> SA AIDS Conference scheduled to kick-start on Tuesday, 20 June 2023 at the Durban International Convention Centre from 15:00 to 18:00. The theme of the AIDS conference is: “**Act, Connect and End the Epidemic**”.

The country’s TB response programme has suffered significant setbacks from COVID-19 pandemic which disrupted the provision of routine health services including TB prevention, care and treatment adherence due to strict quarantine measures and lockdowns.

The Department has launched a target-driven and evidence-based TB recovery plan with the objective to find people with undiagnosed TB patients, strengthen the linkage of people diagnosed with TB to treatment, retention in care and prevention.

New developments in diagnostics, treatment and prevention will be discussed as part of efforts to improve the response to the epidemic. Deliberations on key challenges will help strengthen existing plans and provide a roadmap to address them.

Minister of Health, Dr Joe Phaahla will deliver a keynote address, and amongst attendants and participants in the room will include leaders and representatives from government, civil society organisations, funding agencies, academics, activists, etc.

South Africa ranks amongst the countries with the highest burdens of TB, drug-resistant TB, and TB/HIV co-infection. This is despite the gains made over the past decade in improving treatment initiation and completion and decreasing TB mortality.

Some of the focus areas for Indaba include TB in the mines and workplace, TB management in the private health sector and the role of civil society in the fight against the epidemic to end stigma.

**Members of the media are invited to attend event scheduled as follows:**

**Date:** Tuesday, 20 June 2023

**Time:** 8h30 – 14h00

**Venue:** Southern Sun Elangeni Hotel, North Beach – Durban

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