



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Southern African HIV Clinicians Society supports DA call for greater provincial health funding**

The Southern African HIV Clinicians Society has acknowledged that a statement made by Jack Bloom, the Democratic Alliance's Gauteng Shadow Health MEC, raises an important point relating to patient congestion at public health facilities in Gauteng.

While National Treasury only allocates funds based on the local population census, clinics have historically had foreign patients as well as local patients, and this is necessary in order to address HIV in South Africa, as well as the region.

Professor Yunus Moosa, President of the Society, says there are several factors that need to be recognised.

"We appreciate the fact that Mr Bloom understands the gravity of the situation and recognizes the disparity between funding and patient numbers. We support any move to increase provincial health budget allocations to meet the needs of the actual population. HIV is a communicable disease and untreated individuals in any community places everyone who engages in risky behaviour at risk of acquiring the infection, irrespective of race or nationality."

South Africa is committed to achieving the 90-90-90 targets by 2020, the goal being to diagnose 90% of all individuals who are HIV infected, to get 90% of infected on antiretroviral treatment and to ensure that 90% of those on treatment are virally suppressed. Antiretroviral drugs are safe, highly effective and cheap, and are key to controlling the HIV epidemic, he says.

Lauren Jankelowitz, Chief Executive Officer of the Society adds that ongoing access to ART is critical in the fight against HIV/AIDS, no matter who is requiring treatment. In line with Section 27 of the Constitution, anyone living in this country has the right to access healthcare services, which is critical in the treatment and prevention of HIV. She cautions against statements that have the potential to incite xenophobia. "Everyone has the right to access treatment, and people are not coming from other countries just to get ARVs to take home, they live and work in South Africa and must be given access to healthcare.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yunus Moosa", written over a horizontal line.

Professor Yunus Moosa  
President, Southern African HIV Clinicians Society

### **About the Southern African HIV Clinicians Society**

*The Southern African HIV Clinicians Society is a membership organisation of over 3 000 healthcare workers with an interest in HIV. Its mission is to promote evidence-based, quality HIV healthcare in Southern Africa.*

*A non-profit company, the Society strives to support and strengthen the capacity of its members to deliver high quality, evidence-based HIV prevention, care and treatment services. It is committed to developing guidelines addressing aspects of the management of HIV advocates for the highest quality HIV care for people living with HIV, and is a powerful and independent voice within Southern Africa, with key representation from the most experienced and respected professionals working in the fight against HIV.*

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