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29 May 2008

Western Cape

The Premier: Mr Ebrahim Rasool

Provincial Legislature, Cape Town

Per fax: 021 483 3015

Dear Premier

RE: HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN WESTERN CAPE

The Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) appreciates the assistance that the state has been providing to thousands of displaced people who are affected by the xenophobic attacks and violence in our communities. As you are already aware, a number of civil society organisations have also been working tirelessly to provide humanitarian and relief assistance to thousands of displaced people.

Among the many challenges we have faced has been finding suitable and immediate shelter. We do appreciate that finding suitable shelter on an immediate basis is difficult. However, we do believe that all community, school and other halls / centres (not offices) should be opened immediately to deal with

the urgent demand for alternative shelter. This will address the needs of people who:

-are at present placed in 'safety camps' and who have indicated that they want to leave these camps to be transferred to alternative places of shelter in communities where they are closer to transport hubs, schools and health facilities. In particular, they need alternative shelter because the camps present severe health risks.

-a 'second wave' of displaced people has become apparent. They are refusing to be taken to safety camps but cannot be accommodated elsewhere because the capacity of mosques, churches and community halls have reached maximum capacity.

We would therefore like you to provide us with the following information:

1. A list of all halls and centres that are within the control of the Western Cape province.
2. A list of the halls and centres that are within the control of the Western Cape province that have not been opened as yet, and the reasons why they have not been opened as yet.

Given the urgency and scale of the humanitarian crisis at hand, we hope that you will provide us with this information as a matter of urgency. Also, that you will take immediate steps to open up all as yet unopened halls and centres within the control of the Western Cape province.

Yours faithfully

Vuyiseka Dubula (Secretary General)

Zackie Achmat (Deputy Secretary General)

29 May 2008

The City of Cape Town
The Mayor: Mrs Helen Zille
Civic Centre, Cape Town

Per fax: 021 400 1313

Dear Mayor

RE: HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN WESTERN CAPE

The Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) appreciates the assistance that the state has been providing to thousands of displaced people who are affected by the xenophobic attacks and violence in our communities. As you are already aware, a number of civil society organisations have also been working tirelessly to provide humanitarian and relief assistance to thousands of displaced people.

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- are at present placed in 'safety camps' and who have indicated that they want to leave these camps to be transferred to alternative places of shelter in communities where they are closer to transport hubs, schools and health facilities. In particular, they need alternative shelter because the camps present severe health risks.

- a 'second wave' of displaced people has become apparent. They are refusing to be taken to safety camps but cannot be accommodated

elsewhere because the capacity of mosques, churches and community halls have reached maximum capacity.

We would therefore like you to provide us with the following information:

1. A list of all community halls and centres that are within the control of the City of Cape Town.
2. A list of the halls and centres that that are within the control of the City of Cape Town that have not been opened as yet, and the reasons why they have not been opened as yet.

Given the urgency and scale of the humanitarian crisis at hand, we hope that you will provide us with this information as a matter of urgency. Also, that you will take immediate steps to open up all as yet unopened halls and centres within the control of the City of Cape Town.

Yours faithfully

Vuyiseka Dubula (Secretary General)

Zackie Achmat (Deputy Secretary General)