

Newsletters 2003

TAC newsletters, documents and statements in 2003

[10 December 2003](#)

Competition Commission Settlement Agreements Secure Access to Affordable Life-Saving Antiretroviral Medicines

On TAC's 5th birthday, a victory for people living with HIV/AIDS and for public health - affordable medicines for millions of sub-Saharan Africans are much closer after landmark agreements were concluded and signed yesterday between pharmaceutical companies and AIDS activists.

Today, International Human Rights Day, is TAC's 5th birthday.

[A History of TAC \(pdf\)](#) [TAC Annual Report for 2003 \(pdf\)](#)

A few weeks ago the government revealed its operational ARV treatment plan. Now we celebrate five years of constant struggle with the announcement of a great victory for people living with HIV/AIDS and for public health - a momentous settlement agreement reached at the South African Competition Commission between pharmaceutical companies and AIDS activists.

The Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), COSATU, CEPPWAWU, the AIDS Consortium, four people living with HIV/AIDS and four health-care workers have entered into settlement agreements with pharmaceutical giants GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and Boehringer Ingelheim (BI). In signing these agreements, AIDS activists have now concluded their complaint against GSK and BI. The terms of the agreements go well beyond what could conceivably have been won by pursuing the prosecution of the complaint under the Competition Act.

The effect of the agreements with GSK and BI is that the Clinton Foundation deal that was announced on 23 October 2003 can be implemented in South Africa and other sub-Saharan African countries immediately. The Clinton Foundation deal has ensured that four generic companies will sell triple-drug antiretroviral therapy to governments in sub-Saharan Africa at US \$140 per patient per year.

- [TAC Newsletter announcing settlement victory](#)
- [Agreement between Hazel Tau and Others and GlaxoSmithKline](#)
- [Agreement between Hazel Tau and Others and Boehringer Ingelheim](#)
- [Agreement between GARPP, TAC Treatment Project and Boehringer Ingelheim](#)

- [Access to information agreement with GlaxoSmithKline](#)

- [Access to information agreement with Boehringer Ingelheim](#)

[2 December 2003](#)

TAC Responds to American Friends Service Committee Nobel Peace Prize Nomination

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) has nominated the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) and its chairperson Zackie Achmat for the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize.

[28 November 2003](#)

TAC Activities Around World AIDS Day

[20 November 2003](#)

TAC WELCOMES CABINET ADOPTION OF TREATMENT PLAN - 'HOPE FOR MILLIONS'

On 19 November 2003, the government announced the adoption and details of the Operational Plan for Comprehensive Treatment and Care for HIV and AIDS. The plan envisages that "within a year, there will be at least one [antiretroviral] service point in every health district across the country, and within five years, one service point in every local municipality." [Cabinet Statement, 19 November 2003]. The plan also commits government to investing substantial finance into "upgrading our national healthcare system" via "recruitment of thousands of professionals and a very large training programme to ensure nurses, doctors, laboratory technicians, counsellors and other health workers have the knowledge and the skills to ensure safe, ethical and effective use of medicines." Government has also committed to a massive public education campaign, improved prevention efforts and improved treatment of opportunistic infections.

The Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) welcomes the Cabinet decision. This is a wonderful day for all in South Africa.

This newsletter also contains a very important letter to all TAC members and activists: "The way forward for the TAC"

[13 November 2003](#)

TAC Welcomes HIV Spending in Budget But Urges Cabinet to Release Operational Treatment Plan

[11 November 2003](#)

Joint NEHAWU, DENOSA, HOSPERSA Press Alert: Trade unions respon to crisis at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, "Our Church has AIDS" - Event to be lead by Archbishop Ndungane on 23 November in Stellenbosch

[27 October 2003](#)

Updated Q&A on patents, the Competition Commission complaint and reducing the prices of antiretroviral medicines

[24 October 2003](#)

Statement by the AIDS Law Project (ALP) on HIV/AIDS in the South African National Defence Force (SANDF)

[16 October 2003](#)

Competition Commission Finds GSK and BI in Contravention of the Competition Act

[8 October 2003](#)

Editorial in the Sowetan (MS Word format) commenting on TAC winning the 2003 Nelson Mandela Human Rights Award

[6 October 2003](#)

TAC Receives Nelson Mandela Health and Human Rights Award at Ceremony in Johannesburg Tonight

[2 October 2003](#)

South Africa's Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) and Aids Law Project (ALP) welcome Canada's commitment to ensuring access to medicines

2 October 2003

- Newsletter: [South Africa's Treatment Action Campaign \(TAC\) and Aids Law Project \(ALP\) welcome Canada's commitment to ensuring access to medicines](#)
- [Final TAC submission to Government's ARV plan task team](#) and [annexures](#)

[28 September 2003](#)

GARPP and TAC Treatment Project Request Voluntary License from Boehringer Ingelheim

19 September

TAC hands over submission to antiretroviral operational plan task team. ([Word Document](#)) ([Some of the annexures](#))

[14 September 2003](#)

MCC Affirms that Nevirapine is Safe and Effective for Mother-to-Child Transmission Prevention

8 September 2003

- [Posted photos from the TAC march for treatment at the Durban Aids conference](#)
- [Added the Constitutional Court Judgment Compelling Government to Provide Mother-to-Child Transmission Prevention - Delivered 5 July 2002](#)

[1 September 2003](#)

Activist Pressure Results in AVBOB Changing its Discriminatory Policy Against People with HIV/AIDS

[20 August 2003](#)

New NEC Elected at the Second TAC National Congress

[8 August 2003](#)

TAC welcomes Cabinet statement committing to antiretroviral treatment rollout

[31 July 2003](#)

MCC Decision to Deregister Nevirapine for MTCTP is Disturbing and Confusing

[17 July 2003](#)

TAC Uitenhage Branch Holds Vigil for Sick Comrade

[14 July 2003](#)

TAC Releases Details of Government Costing Study

[8 July 2003](#)

TAC Terminates the Services of Mr. Onos Jude Imhanwa for Fraud and Sexual Harassment

[1 July 2003](#)

Where we stand with government, TAC National Congress, Star article on delays, Friends of TAC UK; To do: Building branches, Treatment literacy

[26 June 2003](#)

TAC Chair to address Elton John AIDS Foundation, Statement between SANAC and TAC, Memoranda to World Economic Forum and Sector Convenors of Growth and Development Summit

[06 June 2003](#)

Statement on Growth and Development Summit, Links to annual report, report on international day of action, ARV guidelines

[06 June 2003](#)

Health-Care Workers Campaign, Jonathan Mann Award, Response to Qunta

[22 May 2003](#)

NEC Decisions, Upcoming Events, Obituaries, Letter to SANAC, Response to Sowetan, Jonathan Mann, Sampie Terreblanche

[05 May 2003](#)

TAC Supports Launch of Health Care Workers' Conditions of Service Campaign 5-6 May 2003

[29 April 2003](#)

Urgent TAC Resolution

[24 April 2003](#)

International Day of Action: Memo to Ministers of Health and Trade and Industry

[22 April 2003](#)

International Solidarity Action and TAC Civil Disobedience on 24 April

[17 April 2003](#)

TAC leaders to be buried at open funerals on Saturday 19 April

[16 April 2003](#)

Government dithers while lives are lost

[12 April 2003](#)

Global fund, Statement by Doctors, HRC, CGE, M&G article by Achmat, Swaziland

[09 April 2003](#)

Edward Mabunda, TAC activist, poet and comrade dies of AIDS - A message from Edward - A statement from COSATU

This afternoon TAC activist and poet Edward Mabunda died of AIDS related illnesses.

This is a link to a message that Edward recorded shortly before he died. [largeway file, 600K](#)

Here is the [transcript](#).

[08 April 2003](#)

TAC Welcomes Namibia's Commitment to Treat People Living With HIV/AIDS - Denialism is the only explanation for SA's delay

[07 April 2003](#)

TAC calls for a Community Day of Action on 16 April 2003 - Followed by an International Day of Action on 24 April 2003

[26 March 2003](#)

TAC Civil Disobedience Campaign - What's Happened and What Will Happen - ALSO: Achmat Challenges Dugmore to a Debate

[20 March 2003](#)

Civil Disobedience Begins - Charges of Culpable Homicide Made Against Two Cabinet Ministers

[19 March 2003](#)

Excellent Statement by COSATU in Response to Minister of Finance Trevor Manuel

[18 March 2003](#)

Minister of Health Should Not Speak at HST Without Signing Treatment Plan, Q&A on Civil Disobedience

[10 March 2003](#)

Civil Disobedience Briefing, Review of 14 February March

[28 February 2003](#)

Government Misses Deadline for Signing NEDLAC Agreement

[27 February 2003](#)

TAC Response to Budget

[24 February 2003](#)

Putting the Record Straight: What Really Happened at NEDLAC

[17 February 2003](#)

TAC March and Memoranda

14 February 2003

March for HIV/AIDS Treatment - Cape Town Civic Centre, 14 February. Event begins at 11am. March begins at 12pm.

- [Newsletter \(Text Document\)](#)

- [View photos of the march](#)

[12 February 2003](#)

Misunderstanding with the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

[11 February 2003](#)

Details of March on 14 February 2003

[5 February 2003](#)

TAC Responds to Minister of Labour

[4 February 2003](#)

Stand up for our lives: March for HIV/AIDS treatment - allow poor countries to import generics

[2 February 2003](#)

11 days to the HIV Treatment March 14 February - What are you doing?

[29 January 2003](#)

March mobilisation, Statement on Bush Commitment, International Solidarity, Nedlac

[12 January 2003](#)

Volunteers needed to help organise and mobilise march for treatment in Cape Town on 14 February.

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