



STATEMENT OF THE TREATMENT ACTION CAMPAIGN “SPECIAL “ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

23 April 2013

The Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) special Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on the 18th – 19th April 2013 at the Booyens Hotel in Johannesburg. 250 TAC members from across the country came together to reflect on progress made over the last two and half years regarding the resolutions that were taken at TAC’s fourth National Congress in 2010, to reflect on challenges encountered and to give direction to the organisation for the next term leading up to the next National Congress in 2015. Amongst the key note speakers were Cde Steve Letsike (SANAC Deputy Chairperson), Dr Thobile Mbengashe (National Department of Health) and Cde Zweli Vavi (COSATU General Secretary).

Delegates noted that the TAC has achieved many successes since the National Congress. These successes are outlined in detail in the General Secretary’s Organisational Report. ([Available here](#))

The AGM took successes and challenges of the past two years, current challenges within the health sector and current strategic direction of the organisation. A summary of resolutions follows:

AGM RESOLUTIONS

1. HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING TO DELIVER QUALITY HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV AND TB

1.1 Provincial Consultative Health Forums

According to the National Health Act (NHA) every provincial health department is meant to convene a Provincial Health Consultative forum to consult with stakeholders. However; none of the provinces except KZN have called a Health Consultative Forum.

TAC calls for these forums to be established urgently and for inclusion of civil society as co-conveners of these forums in the provinces.

1.2 Health Systems monitoring (including the National Health Insurance)

The AGM made resolutions as follows:

- That TAC branches in the pilot districts must prioritise NHI work

- To continue to closely monitor the implementation of the National Health Insurance at national and district level
- To popularise and publicise the Office of Health Compliance Standards (OHSC) after it is established later this year and to encourage communities to report their complaints to the OHSC

The TAC has called for urgent solutions to the health crises in the Eastern Cape and Gauteng provinces; the AGM endorsed litigation if there is no speedy solution to the challenges that continue to negatively affect patients.

2. PREVENTION, TREATMENT, CARE AND SUPPORT OF HIV AND TB

One of the TAC's achievements for the past year was calling for the inclusion of the Fixed Dose Combination (FDC) in the current ARV tender.

On HIV

The AGM resolved;

- To monitor the roll-out of the Fixed Dose Combination in health facilities and will continue to monitor the medicine stock-outs and shortages in public health care facilities through continued collaboration and involvement in the Stop Stock-outs Project (SSP).
- To call for the registration of other FDC for second and third line regimens.
- To strengthen the PMTCT programme to reduce HIV transmission from mother to child to below 2%.
- To continue campaigning for phase out of D4T and demand completion of phase out by measurable timeframe: D4T free by next financial year.

On TB

The AGM resolved;

- To prioritise the issue of implementation of TB management programmes in correctional services following on the Dudley Lee judgment.
- To campaign for new TB diagnostics and drugs including, Bedaquiline / Delamanid pre-approval use in certain, limited cases as well as fast tracked research for registration.
- To campaign for linezolid to be included on the Essential Drugs List and listed for use for TB in public sector at a reduced in price. Further challenge monopoly over the price of this key DR TB drug.
- To campaign for the decentralization of TB / MDRTB care and roll out of the Department of Health's "MDR TB: A policy framework on decentralised and deinstitutionalised management for South Africa"

The AGM also agreed to strengthen the Fix the Patent Laws Campaign and intensify our call for a reform of the South African patent laws to allow access to new, more effective and cheaper drugs in South Africa.

3. On gender based violence (GBV)

TAC will advocate for a decentralisation of rape crisis centres so that they can be closer to communities. Further supports the call for a commission of inquiry in the gender based violence in South Africa and calling on the Presidency to deal with GBV decisively.

4. Building local leadership and supporting community initiatives of holding government accountable

The AGM agreed that TAC representation and participation within local governance structures will be intensified. That TAC must intensify its work on the ground by building TAC stronger at local level to ensure that the implementation of health policies becomes a reality.

5. National Secretariat

This was also an elective AGM to fill vacant posts within the national secretariat. The following positions were vacant within the National Secretariat and were duly elected through an electoral process.

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| 1. Chairperson - | Ms. Nonkosi Khumalo |
| 2. General Secretary - | Mrs. Vuyiseka Dubula |
| 3. Deputy General Secretary - | Miss. Portia Ngcaba |
| 4. Deputy Chairperson - | Mr. Anele Yawa |
| 5. Treasurer - | Mr. Lord Ntambw |
| 6. Women's Sector representative - | Miss. Portia Serote |
| 7. People Living with HIV and AIDS representative - | Mr. Andrew Mosane |
| 8. Additional Member- | Mr. Mark Heywood |

We are pleased that 50% of office bearers are women and that 50% are people openly living with HIV.

The TAC would like to thank all the partners and keynote speakers who participated in this AGM to make it a success.

For more information and comments please contact:

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