

Summary of Health Issues in South Africa

Wednesday, 18th July 2016

An anticipated 18 000 international participants are to be in attendance to the conference held by the International Aids Society in Durban. Bill Gates, the founder of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which has invested more than 9 billion dollars in Africa alone, opinions that the conventional preventative methods of need to be replaced with more effective means for example vaccines and medication that sufferers are able to use constantly. Many reasons exist for the concern, undiagnosed being one of them as well millions untreated and millions receiving treatment are not staying on the treatment.

RESEARCH: BEKEZELA PHAKATHI: BUSINESS DAY, 18TH JULY 2016

This Conference also stepped in with concern over the problem of people unable to afford AIDS medication, will not overlap to those with other ailments, co-infections of AIDS. Pharmaceutical companies with intellectual property rights produced medications that were considered unaffordable. This should be challenged by countries as it is a basic denial of the right to healthcare and the basic right to life. The focus is on international human rights law.

RESEARCH:-TMG DIGITAL, 18TH JULY 2016

TB is the biggest killer of an infectious nature worldwide. It goes hand in hand with HIV, which increases the vulnerability to be infected by HIV. New scientific research is required, according to the University of Copenhagen. South Africa has the second highest rate of infection of TB worldwide. The amounts of money utilised for TB drug treatment was markedly less than that for HIV/AIDS, statistics were provided for by the Treatment Action Campaign. TB scientists need to utilise the expertise of AIDS researches.

This failure to address the seriousness of this was addressed by the Swiss Global Health Institute which cited European governments facing immigration with very high rates of TB infections.

RESEARCH: TAMAR KAHN: BDiive, 18th JULY 2016

A problem experienced in the Western Cape of overworked young doctors is being addressed by the Provincial Health Department. This is not isolated to the Western Cape. A task team is at work to come up with a workable solution to this whilst still providing quality 24 hour care. The HPCSA will also become involved to manage the implementation of such and maintain that the recommendations are adhered to are within the national guidelines.

RESEARCH: SUNDAY ARGUS, 17TH JULY 2016

Police medical aid schemes have been exposed to being fraught with accusations of fraud and financial misappropriation to the value of R2-million, involving local and overseas luxury trips including the Cape Town Jazz Festival. Expensive gifts being bought were also uncovered. Recently five board of trustee members were forcibly removed. The board's Chairman also implicated in such scandal, also resigned two years ago. Polmed paid for his overseas trips in 2012, 2013 and 2014.

It was recommended that Polmed lay criminal charges against the executives for fraud. This did not happen.

RESEARCH: THANDUXOLO JIKA: SUNDAY TIMES, 17TH JULY 2016

The remaining issue in this summary is that of the sugar tax debate, which has been addressed previously.