

HEALTH ADJUSTED BUDGET VOTE STATEMENT BY
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH,
HON. DR ZWELINI MKHIZE
23 JULY 2020

**Madam Speaker,
Honourable Members,
Honourable Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee,
Members of the Provincial Executive Councils,
Members of Boards of Health Entities and Statutory Councils,
Members of Academic and Research Bodies,
Public Service Managers and Officials,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

We present the Department of Adjusted Budget Vote and Policy Statement at a time that is unprecedented in the history of modern society.

Last year in September, the world convened at the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly to commit to the ideals of achieving Universal Health Coverage by 2030 through the High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage

At the time, no one could have predicted that barely four months later, the COVID-19 pandemic would literally bring the world to

mass reach in various areas of our operations

Currently, a total of 20 hospitals and 34 Primary Health Care Facilities were revitalised, 7 Primary Health Care

x Community Service **3,502** (included are **1,146** Doctors, **284** Nurses and **2,072** other health professions).

The total number of permanent posts filled is **3,648** (being **738** Doctors, **862** Nurses, **1182** other health related professions and **866** administrative related posts)

We can never over emphasise that health workers are the backbone of our fight against this pandemic. It is therefore in our interest not only

We are also mindful that while we focus on this fight

are critical for the management and understanding of the evolving outbreak.

There are many clinical trials in planning and in progress that aim to identify new technologies for the prevention of Covid-19 infection. These include vaccine studies, pre-exposure prophylaxis studies, and studies aimed at evaluating new therapies for both early

national guidelines, expanding the DATCOV hospital surveillance system to monitor mortality and morbidity in all hospitals and conducting new laboratory-based investigations including sero-epidemiology, viral tracking and viral culture.

SAMRC:

The South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) plays a role through research, innovation, development and technology transfer. The scope of the research includes laboratory investigations, clinical research, and public health studies. The

We

containing products from those with high levels of THC and products required for medicinal purposes.

HIV / AIDS TARGETS

We are pleased that in the 2019/2020 financial year, we did see some districts in the country achieve the 90-90-90 targets (know their status, receiving ARV, and have viral suppression). These were announced in December and they are Ugu, Umzinyathi and Umkhanyakude districts. As at the end of March 2020, all three districts have maintained this status, and an additional district, Harry Gwala has also reached this milestone.

In December 2019 we launched a fixed dose combination ARV drug called Tenofovir + Lamivudine and Dolutegravir (TLD). This cost effect ARV drug is well tolerated with fewer side effects and it also suppresses the viral load rapidly. Patients are now able to pick up prepacked medication closer to their homes or workplaces as part of Centralised Chronic Medicines Dispensing and Distribution (CCMDD). We are pleased that as at May 2020 the number of patients using CCMDD is two million four hundred and fourteen thousand five hundred and twenty three (2 414 253). We cannot forget to acknowledge the continued support by the US Government through PEPFAR and the Global Fund, who have been our partners for more than a decade in the fight against HIV and TB.

We intend to embark on public a campaign to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS and TB, even during these challenging circumstances of battling with COVID-19 in the country. We therefore call on South Africans, in particular men and young people to get tested knowing your status is good for you

and your loved ones! If you test

for the common good. It depends on everyone obeying the essential public health protocols and having the patience to stick with a careful but steady path as we re-open the economy.

We must focus on changing our behaviour, and ultimately, we will overcome.

I thank You