

**SPEECH OF THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH
AT THE ROTARY FAMILY HEALTH DAY EVENT
WEDNESDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2023: CITY OF MANGAUNG,
FREE STATE**

Programme Directors:

Mayor, Cllr:

CEO of Action Group for Family health and AIDS Prevention, Ms Sue Paget

Rotary International President Elect:

Deputy Chairperson of SANAC:

SANAC CEO, Dr Thembisile Xulu

Representative of the US Agencies:

The 10th launch of the Rotary Family Health Days 2023 prioritises women, mothers and children through a clarion call to mobilise unvaccinated children, zero dose communities, heightening mother-baby pairing programme and intensify awareness in schools to encourage mothers to immunise their babies. This aligns to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and meeting the commitments made in the Global Strategy for

95%. In January 2024 we will be introducing other new vaccines such as Rubella vaccine to make sure that children are fully protected.

Since 1985, Rotary has had an interest in Polio eradication. Much progress has been made to date, surveillance processes, readiness drills to respond in case we have the confirmed Polio case and to identify possible warning signs of re-emergence of Polio. Recently, we are challenged by Polio outbreaks in neighbouring countries. We are therefore raising awareness on possible polio cases. Report any cases of Acute Flaccid Paralysis (this is when a child who was able to walk suddenly is unable to walk properly). If you are not sure visit your nearest health facility for help. We cannot afford to have resurgence of Polio in our countries.

We have also made progress in reducing HIV in children and adolescents. While there is remarkable progress on the 95-95-95 cascade for adults, children and adolescents are left behind at 82-68-67. In simple terms we have 70 457 children who need to be linked to care. Today we are calling on the whole society to join us in strengthening interventions through the Global Alliance to end AIDS in children by 2030. This collaboration requires civil society, other government departments and other key stakeholders to ensure that we leave no one behind. The four pillars of interventions are, (1) Case finding of exposed infants and children, (2) treatment for pregnant and

We remain alert that basic prevention strategies should continue to include
Pre-exposure prophylaxis Post