



GOVERNMENT NEWS



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GOVERNMENT SETS NEW TARGET IN FIGHT AGAINST TB

- Government has set itself a target to test and treat at least an additional 80 000 people for tuberculosis (TB) between April this year and March 2019 through its campaign to fight the disease.
- The launch of the campaign was announced by Deputy President and chairperson of the South African AIDS Council, David Mabuza.
- He was speaking at the commemoration of World TB day on Thursday ahead of the official day on 24 March 2018.
- This campaign is in preparation for a high level meeting between Heads of State in New York, where they will discuss how the world will eliminate TB.
- “We seek to find and treat at least 40 000 before we go to the High Level Meeting in New York in September,” said the Deputy President.
- It follows a call made by Health Minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi -- as chairperson of the Stop TB Partnership Board -- at the United Nations General Assembly in 2016 for the UN to discuss solutions for TB.
- The Deputy President said the key to meeting their target for the campaign is the collaboration with traditional leaders due to their proximity to people.
- Deputy President Mabuza reminded the public that while TB is curable, prevention is better than cure.
- “TB is curable! Taking treatment for just six months cures TB and the treatment is provided free of charge in clinics by our government. However... people with coughs, night sweats, chest pains and weight loss – the symptoms of TB - often ignore these symptoms,” said the SANAC chairperson.
- He urged people to get tested if they experience symptoms of coughing for more than two weeks, night sweats, chest pains and losing weight.
- For the full article kindly visit: <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-sets-new-target-fight-against-tb>



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