

**Hiv/Aids Mining Summit – Declaration Of Intent
Final Version - 30 April 2003.**

1. PREAMBLE:

- 1.1 The Principals representing Government, Employers and Labour ('the parties'), assembled at Gallagher Estate on 30 April 2003, at the inaugural HIV/AIDS Mining Summit to:
 - a. Review progress and address challenges in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the mining industry;
 - b. Re-affirm their commitment to implement and review the 5-Year National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS and STIs (Strategic Plan);
 - c. Secure a national commitment to enhancing coordination;
 - d. Share experiences and best practice on combating HIV/AIDS in a comprehensive manner; and
 - e. Strengthen partnerships between government, business and labour.

2. NOTING:

- 2.1 That the HIV/AIDS epidemic affects society at every level;
- 2.2 That the HIV/AIDS epidemic has far reaching social and economic implications, which have not yet been fully quantified;
- 2.3 That the HIV/AIDS epidemic demands a comprehensive, coordinated and united response to be defeated;
- 2.4 That the high prevalence rate of sexually transmitted infections (STI's) contributes to the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS;
- 2.5 That HIV/AIDS exacerbates the TB epidemic and has the potential to reverse the gains made in managing TB and undermine efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS;
- 2.6 That poverty eradication plays a significant role in combating HIV/AIDS;
- 2.7 That the mining sector (inclusive of employers, unions and communities) has played a pioneering role in establishing proactive, comprehensive, multi-stakeholder response to the management of HIV/AIDS;
- 2.8 That the government has developed a comprehensive Strategic Plan.
- 2.9 That several declarations have been signed at national, regional, continental and global levels (e.g. SADC, Abuja and UNGASS) to demonstrate political commitments in the fight against HIV/AIDS and other related infectious diseases.

3. THE PARTIES ACKNOWLEDGE THAT:

- 3.1 The response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic will only be effective if all parties share a common vision and strategy.
- 3.2 Prevention and awareness of the infection should be the central focus in fighting the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- 3.3 Prevention, treatment, care and support are mutually reinforcing elements and must be integrated in a comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS.
- 3.4 Nutrition is an essential component of HIV/AIDS prevention and management programmes.
- 3.5 Traditional healers have an important role to play in the comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS.
- 3.6 Government and the mining industry are already providing comprehensive programmes to combat Tuberculosis, Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV/AIDS.
- 3.7 A number of mining companies have recently introduced anti-retroviral drugs as part of their comprehensive HIV/AIDS programmes.

4. COMMITMENTS:

- 4.1 The parties reaffirm their commitment to implement and review the Strategic Plan in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.
- 4.2 The parties commit to strengthen all efforts to prevent the spread of HIV infection.
- 4.3 The parties commit, where appropriate, to strengthening the healthcare infrastructure to provide the necessary prevention, treatment, care and support programmes.
- 4.4 The parties commit that by the end of 2004, every workplace in the mining industry will have HIV/AIDS policies and programmes in place, which are aimed at encouraging openness about the disease and to reduce stigmatization, discrimination, and prejudice against workers who are infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.
- 4.5 The parties commit to co-operate to transform the living conditions of mineworkers in line with efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, TB and STIs, and the implementation of the Mining Charter.
- 4.6 The parties seek to co-operate in the development of programmes that could lead to the continued improvements in the health and safety of workers.

- 4.7 The parties commit to co-operate in the development and improvement of wellness programmes within mining communities.
- 4.8 The parties commit to conducting periodic incidence, prevalence and other necessary surveys of HIV/AIDS and to share information within a national databank framework.
- 4.9 The parties commit to developing and strengthening partnerships at the local, regional, national and international level, in the fight against HIV/AIDS.
- 4.10 The parties commit to participate in ethics committees relevant to research in HIV/AIDS; the research committees should be representative and in line with international norms and standards.

5.1 PREVENTION:

- a. The parties agree to evaluate the effectiveness of their current publicity and information campaigns and to work towards improved and better-coordinated information, education and communication campaigns.
- b. The parties agree that voluntary testing and counseling (VCT) is integral to the vision of preventing new infections and shall encourage all employees to utilize VCT services (to determine their HIV status), and this shall be done within the context of informed consent, confidentiality and non-discrimination.
- c. The parties agree to work together to facilitate the optimal use of resources in the public and private sectors for voluntary counseling and testing services.

5.2 TREATMENT, CARE AND SUPPORT:

The parties recognize and support that people living with HIV/AIDS require a continuum of care, which should be inclusive of:

- a. Ongoing counseling;
- b. Information and advice on accessing benefits including social grants;
- c. Access to wellness programmes that may include:
 - Information and knowledge about HIV/AIDS;
 - Information and advice on healthy living;
 - Adequate and nutritious diet;
 - Appropriate treatment of opportunistic infections;
 - Appropriate monitoring of HIV/AIDS;
 - The provision of anti-retroviral drugs, in line with international norms and standards, and ethical considerations;
- d. Strengthening partnerships and building capacity to facilitate optimal use of healthcare facilities.

5.3 RESEARCH, MONITORING AND EVALUATION:

5.3.1 The parties commit to research, monitoring and evaluation inclusive of assessing:

- a. The impact of HIV/AIDS in the mining industry;
- b. The economic impact of HIV/AIDS on the mining industry;
- c. The consequence of long term use of anti-retroviral drugs in the mining industry;
- d. The quality of programmes and adherence to international norms; and
- e. The need to extend HIV/AIDS programmes beyond the workplace.

5.3.2 Facilitating the funding of research on HIV vaccines and other appropriate and cost effective treatments.

5.3.3 On the evidence based research into the efficacy of traditional and/or natural remedies.

5.4 SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS:

- a. The parties commit to establishing measures to improve the standard of housing for mineworkers including the upgrading of hotels, conversion of hostels into family units and the promotion of home ownership for all employees (this is the wording from the Charter).

6. WAY FORWARD:

6.1 The parties recognize and agree that extensive work has been done in the fight against HIV/AIDS and that much remains to be done to achieving the vision of no new infections and in providing the continuum of healthcare to people living with HIV/AIDS.

6.2 The partnerships consolidated at the Summit set the example of best practice for the rest of our society.

6.3 This declaration recognizes the progress made in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

6.4 The Tripartite HIV/AIDS Committee established to coordinate and combat HIV/AIDS in the mining industry should play a pivotal role in the implementation of this declaration, working closely with all relevant structures.

6.5 The Tripartite HIV/AIDS Committee should transform this declaration into a plan of action with specific targets and timelines.

6.6 This process of strengthening the Tripartite HIV/AIDS Committee may involve revisiting the terms of reference of the Tripartite Committee and

reviewing its membership to ensure high-level interaction and participation by all key stakeholders.

Signed by

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BUSINESS LABOUR STATE

On the 30th April 2003 at Gallagher Estate, Midrand.