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GENERAL NOTICE

NOTICE 902 OF 2008**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH****NOTICE: DRAFT POLICY ON AFRICAN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE FOR
SOUTH AFRICA**

Members of the public are invited to submit any substantiated comments on the draft policy on African Traditional Medicine for South Africa to the Director-General of Health, Private Bag X828, Pretoria, 0001, (for the attention of the Director: Traditional Medicine) within three months from the date of the publication of this notice.

Foreword by the Minister of Health

It is with great pleasure that I present this draft Policy for the institutionalization of African Traditional Medicine in the healthcare system of the country.

This draft policy is in furtherance of the right to healthcare services as enshrined in the Bill of Rights, chapter 2, section 27 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 to provide of health range of disciplines for the citizen.

The draft policy marks an important epoch in the history of African Traditional Medicine in our country. It symbolises the respect and recognition of the African Traditional Medicine by Government for sustaining health care in the urban and rural areas for a number of years, in spite of its oppression and marginalisation during the era of colonialism and apartheid.

The draft policy on African Traditional Medicine comes at a time when the public health care system is in a dire need to reflect the diverse health disciplines which the citizen utilize for their healthcare needs in South Africa.

This draft policy will within the context of the Alma Ata Declaration on Primary Health Care strengthen the capacity of healthcare personnel, health services and communities to ensure

It provides a transformational process for formal recognition of the African Traditional Medicine system to acknowledgement our heritage as a country and to address issues of (a) capacitating and protecting Traditional Health Practitioners and the users of African Traditional Medicine, (b) protecting African Traditional Medicine Knowledge, and (c) strengthening the National Health System.

Government is committed to institutionalizing African Traditional Medicine in the healthcare system.

I am confident that this draft policy, when implemented, will contribute to the improvement and accessibility of healthcare delivery.


DR ME TSHABALALA-MSIMANG, MP
MINISTER OF HEALTH

Date: 10-7-2008