There is hope in caring

Minister of Transport, Dali Matola
“Prevention is the key to beating AIDS and the movement of millions of people through our transport network provides a powerful channel to spread information on prevention. The transport sector could reach into the heart of every home.”

Minister of Health, Manto Tshabalala-Msimang
“We are working on a Universal Rollout Plan to prevent mother-to-child transmission using Nevirapine in preparation for the post-December 2002 period.”

Minister of Provincial and Local Government, Sydney Mufamadi
“The special HIV/AIDS budget increased from R350 million in 2001/02 to R1 billion this year and will reach R1.8 billion in 2004/05. Funds go mainly to provincial departments of Health, Education and Social Development. The provinces also spend more from their general budgets on HIV/AIDS.”

Minister of Public Service and Administration, Gertrude Fraser-Moleketi
“Government will campaign to counter the movement of millions of people living with AIDS can comfortably disclose their status and be supported.”

Minister of Labour, Membathisi Mdladlana
“Tuberculosis (TB) is rife in our country and it affects people with HIV acutely. Let’s beat TB and make life better for all. Employers and unions are critically placed to help us turn the corner. Why let TB claim lives needlessly?”

President Thabo Mbeki
“Our common task as a nation is to give hope to fellow human beings. It is wrong and inhumane to treat anyone said to be HIV-positive as a person who should be isolated and turned into a social outcast. To communicate a message of hopelessness is to sentence other human beings to death. And, to protect ourselves as a nation, we should remember: each one of us has a responsibility to protect his or her health.”

Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs, Thoko Didiza
“Conditions of poverty – poor nutrition, a lack of clean water or effective sanitation – weaken the ability of the body to fight disease. We need poverty eradication strategies, food security, and good health programmes to shake off the burden of disease.”

Minister of Education, Kader Asmal
“We must teach young people how to act when facing decisions about sex, how to take safe options and stay free of HIV. We must also respect each other’s dignity. The life skills and HIV/AIDS education programme is a compulsory part of the school curriculum. Prevention, therefore, must be the watchword.”

Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, Ben Ngubane
“Alongside poverty alleviation and nutritional interventions, government will encourage investigation into alternative treatments, particularly on supplements and medication for boosting the immune system.”

Minister of Social Development, Zole Skwetye
“In prison HIV infection is believed to be higher than in the general population, because of overcrowding, spread of infections and stress levels. We are combating this through awareness, treatment of sexually transmitted infections and opportunistic diseases, voluntary counselling, testing and partnerships.”

Minister of Correctional Services, Ban Sakesana
“We will increase our assistance to families affected by AIDS, with special help for child-headed families, increase access to foster care and child support grants and populative care-dependency grants for children with disabilities. We will intensify distribution of food parcels. We aim to spend four times more on community-care.”

Minister of Transport, Dali Matola
“We can make a huge difference by offering good treatment and effective medicines for infections like TB linked to HIV/AIDS, irrespective of a patient’s HIV status. Nobody should be sent away without treatment. Government will continue working with pharmaceutical companies to lower the cost of drugs to treat these infections.”

Thoko Didiza
“Government will campaign to counter discrimination against those with HIV and AIDS. We need to create an environment in which people living with AIDS can comfortably disclose their status and be supported.”

Deputy President, Jacob Zuma
“All South Africans should join hands, as part of the regeneration of our society, in a campaign of hope as our response to the challenge of HIV/AIDS. If we mobilise our strength, as a nation and as individuals, we can make a difference.”

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