



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



MEDIA ADVISORY

To: Editors & Health Journalists
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Department embarks of health campaigns to save lives, prevent tobacco harm

Pretoria: The Department of Health will on Saturday, 31 May launch a campaign to encourage individuals and families to embrace the gift of life through organ and tissue donation in order to save lives, improve the quality of life for individuals with organ failure, and bring healing to others.

It is estimated we have about three thousand (3000) people on the waiting list to receive either organ or tissue donation in South Africa, while some of the people pass away while waiting to receive these life-saving gifts of life. These figures might be underreported.

Organ and tissue donation form part of the healthcare services offered in South Africa, both in the state and private sector. However, lack of information about donation is impacting people's willingness to donate. It is for this reason that the Department in collaboration with various stakeholders in the sector including Organ Donor Foundation, SA Transplant Society, SA Tissue Bank Association and National Kidney Foundation will launch a campaign to intensify awareness on the significance of organ and tissue donation in saving and improving the quality of life of South Africans.

Details of Organ and Tissues Donation Campaign Launch are as follows:

Date: Saturday, 31 May 2025
Venue: Birchwood Conference Centre, Boksburg – Gauteng
Time: 9h00
Livestreaming Link will be provided for media outside Gauteng Province

On Monday, 02 June, Deputy Minister of Health, Dr Joe Phaahla will deliver a keynote address at the World No-Tobacco Day Media and stakeholder networking session convened as part of ongoing efforts by government to highlight tobacco control issues emanating from the legislative development process of the Tobacco Control Bill.

The Department in collaboration with a number of stakeholders including World Health Organization Country Office, SA Medical Research Council, National Council Against Smoking, Africa Centre for Tobacco Industry Monitoring and Policy Research and SA Tobacco Free Youth Forum will use this session to present an update on the trends in the use of emerging products and tobacco smoking in terms of the evidence of harm reduction failure at a population level, and lastly unmasking tobacco industry tactics and manipulation of tobacco and nicotine products.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), tobacco use remains one of the leading causes of preventable death and disease globally, responsible for over 8 million deaths each year, including more than 1 million from second-hand smoke exposure. It is for this reason that government has proposed Tobacco Products and Electronic Delivery Systems legislation as part of efforts to enforce strong tobacco control policies in South Africa.

The Bill will not only protect current and future generations from the harms of tobacco, but also advance health equity and sustainable development. Thus, the Department calls on all sectors, health professionals, educators, policymakers, and communities to unite in support of effective tobacco control.

Members of the media are invited to attend World No-Tobacco Day session as follows:

Date: Monday, 02 June 2025

Venue: Protea Hotel, Midrand - Gauteng

Time: 9h00

Livestreaming Link will be provided for media outside Gauteng Province

For more information and media enquiries, please contact:

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