

Political Party Responses to the TAC's People's Health Manifesto

African Christian Democratic Party

1. The National Strategic Plan for HIV, STIs and Tuberculosis

The ACDP is committed to meeting the targets identified in the NSP. We are committed to implementing an efficient and effective health service and we take the issue of HIV very seriously.*

a. Are you committed to meeting the targets identified in the NSP? How will you demonstrate a commitment to meeting the NSP targets?

Yes

b. When the current NSP ends in 2016 will you agree to a new set of targets to ensure 100% of people with HIV who need treatment can access it?

Yes

2. Stockouts of essential medicines

a. Do you agree that preventable medicine stockouts are unlawful and a violation of health rights?

Yes the ACDP agree that preventable medicine stockouts are unlawful and a violation of health rights.

b. What concrete steps will your party take to bring an end to stockouts of essential medicines?

The ACDP will ensure relevant vacancies are filled with trained and capable staff - oversight and accountability structures established and necessary precautions taken to avoid stockouts and to provide emergency access in unforeseen circumstances.

3. Patent law reform

a. Does your party support the amendment of South Africa's intellectual property laws in order to protect the right to health and to fully utilise all pro-public health flexibilities available in international law?

In principle the ACDP supports efforts to protect the right to health and access to medication - we have not however had the opportunity to apply our minds to this specific legislation due to capacity constraints.

b. Do you commit to finalising this policy process before the 2014 elections and introducing new legislation as a priority in the next parliament?

When it is brought back in the 5th Parliament we will however endeavor to give it our full attention.

4. District and provincial AIDS Councils

a. Will your party ensure that performance evaluations of MECs and premiers include a measure of their success or failure in budgeting for and ensuring the success of provincial and district AIDS councils?

The ACDP will ensure that performance evaluations of MECs and premiers include a measure of their success or failure in budgeting for and ensuring the success of provincial and district AIDS councils.

b. What steps will you take to ensure that performance evaluations include this measure?

These details have not been discussed at an executive level but the ACDP commits to evaluating both incentives for compliance - and consequences for MEC's who fail to budget adequately for this purpose.

5. TB in prisons

a. What concrete steps will your party take to ensure that the problem of overcrowding in prisons is solved?

The ACDP approach to overcrowding in prisons is to ensure that people are eager to stay out of prison. The ACDP aims to see that inmates work and earn their keep while in prison - privileges like TV will be withheld - these measures aim to afford prisoners the opportunity to pay their expenses instead of adding to their debt to society - it is also aimed at causing perpetrators to think twice about committing crime - at the same time it will also ensure longer hours in clean air.

b. How will your party demonstrate political will to respect, protect, promote and fulfil the right to health in prisons?

The ACDP will respect, protect, promote and fulfil the right to health in prisons providing access to all necessary services and medication.

6. Quackery

a. Will you commit to sufficient funding for the law enforcement unit and support speedy prosecutions of quacks?

The ACDP will commit to sufficient funding for the law enforcement unit to do its job and we will support speedy prosecutions of those illegally operating as doctors or making unsubstantiated promises.

b. What steps will your party take to guard the independence of the SAHPRA? Will you ensure that it has funding sufficient to allow it to perform its statutory functions efficiently and timeously?

The ACDP will guard the independence of the SAHPRA and ensure that it has funding sufficient to allow it to perform its statutory functions efficiently and timeously. We will also address the backlogs of the former MCC to ensure legitimate treatment is not held up or denied people in the process.

7. Cervical cancer

What concrete steps will your party take to ensure that more women are screened for cervical cancer?

The ACDP will ensure through partnerships and adequate budgeting that awareness programmes and access to checkups and pap smears are accessible.

8. HIV prevention

Does your party support the provision of both condoms and comprehensive sex education in schools?

The ACDP does not support the arbitrary provision of condoms in school -we do support age appropriate sex education where the subject matter is available and circulated for the purpose of informing parents what their children will be told - parents and students must also have a choice to opt out if they choose.

9. National Health Insurance

a. Does your party support the introduction of National Health Insurance?

The ACDP does support the introduction of National Health Insurance** NHI based on the fact that all South Africans are entitled to - and must access- quality healthcare services.

b. Does your party commit to increased public spending to improve the quality of the public health care system and to the Abuja target of spending in health being 15% of the national budget?

The ACDP supports increased public spending to improve the quality of health.

c. Will your party support the reasonable regulation by law of medicines prices and of private health facilities and services?

YES (with the emphasis on reasonable - ensuring the maximum possible voluntary involvement of private health in the National Health of the country through NHI)

10. Accountability and co-operation

a. Do you commit to only appointing appropriately qualified and committed persons as MECs of Health?

No response

b. Will you meaningfully engage with civil society and set up Provincial Health Consultative Forums as required by the NHA?

No response

c. Do you condemn any form of intimidation and support the rights of whistle-blowers in the health service?

No response

d. Will you immediately dismiss or suspend any health official implicated, charged or found guilty of corruption?

No response

e. Do you commit to annual open performance assessments of MECs and premiers?

No response

Political Party Responses to the TAC's People's Health Manifesto



11. Openness, transparency and freedom of expression

a. Will your party reform or repeal the Protection of State Information Bill?

No response

b. Does your party support or oppose the establishment of a statutory media appeals tribunal?

No response

Political Party Responses to the TAC's People's Health Manifesto African National Congress

1. The National Strategic Plan for HIV, STIs and Tuberculosis

a. Are you committed to meeting the targets identified in the NSP? How will you demonstrate a commitment to meeting the NSP targets?

Government Departments led by Ministers from the African National Congress (ANC) were central to the drafting of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) for HIV, STIs and Tuberculosis. Indeed, the South African National AIDS Council led by the Deputy President, co-ordinate the drafting of the NSP, which the Cabinet approved.

The ANC led government has been committed to and has led the implementation of the NSP since its launch by the President in December 2011. The ANC led government at national and provincial levels has shown its commitment to the implementation of the NSP and to meet the targets by the levels of funding provided to government departments as well as NGOs to ensure that the targets of the NSP are met. The significant increase in the HIV conditional grant for example between 2009 and 2014 is but indication of the ANC led government commitment. In addition, the UNAIDS report (2012) entitled 'South Africa HIV Estimates and Projections, 2004-2016' report illustrates the progress made in South Africa since 2009.

b. When the current NSP ends in 2016 will you agree to a new set of targets to ensure 100% of people with HIV who need treatment can access it?

The ANC will work together with all stakeholders as it always has to agree to a new set of targets that will take South Africa to a stage where all people who need treatment will access it.

2. Stockouts of essential medicines

a. Do you agree that preventable medicine stockouts are unlawful and a violation of health rights?

The ANC regards availability of medicines as a very important component of the healthcare system. It is one of the World Health Organisation's six (6) building blocks of a healthcare system. Hence, when we audited six (6) Core Standards of healthcare in our country, we included the audit of medicines stock-outs, so as to know how to deal with it.

b. What concrete steps will your party take to bring an end to stockouts of essential medicines?

We are aware that health systems in both developed and developing countries face similar challenges in ensuring uninterrupted access to medicines at health care facilities.

A range of interventions to address the challenge of medicine stock outs has been identified as an intermittent yet chronic problem that affected a minority of public health facilities. These key interventions include:

- In recognition of this chronic problem, the ANC at its 53rd National Conference held in Mangaung in December 2012 identified the system of depots that are currently employed by Provinces to order medicines as contributing to this problem. Hence the ANC seeks to abandon the depot system so that some of the huge health facilities can order directly from suppliers, and hence the Resolution reads as follows:

"The department introduces direct delivery of pharmaceuticals, dry dispensary and related supplies to facilities by suppliers to ensure improved turnaround times and prompts payment of suppliers.

"The department extends the central procurement mechanism to all pharmaceuticals, dry dispensary and medical equipment and devices.

- Implementation of a chronic medicines supply model that reduces the burden on health facilities whilst being more convenient for patients. Additionally, this model will allow for a more rapid response to medicine shortages.
- Development of a reporting template whereby district pharmacists report medicines supply problems on a weekly basis to the head of pharmaceutical services in the province.
- A two-weekly stock provincial depot management report which is used to identify stock levels of essential medicines, while provincial depots are still in operation.
- Monthly meetings with manufacturers to discuss historic and estimated future supply quantities as well as any potential factors that may affect supply.
- Deployment of medicines supply monitors to support provinces with medicines supply management.
- Providing support to provinces to implement penalties and buyouts against suppliers that fail to supply as per their contractual obligation.
- Implementation of appropriate budgeting for medicines through a non-negotiable system of resource allocation and the monitoring of supplier payments within 30 days.
- Rollout of an appropriate software solution to provincial clinics to support these clinics in ordering the right quantity of stock at the right time.
- Collaboration with mobile phone suppliers in the development and piloting of an application for stock monitoring at clinic level.
- Introduction of a toll free call centre for patients, and health professionals to report stock outs.

- Collaboration with clinician society and civil society organisations to address reports of stock shortages in facilities.
- Collaboration with international procurement agencies, Global Fund and PEPFAR, to understand the factors that affect global supplies from time to time.
- Collaboration with various stakeholders to develop a model to quantify demand against total supplier capacity with the aim of assisting the user to determine adequate stock levels.

3. Patent law reform

a. Does your party support the amendment of South Africa's intellectual property laws in order to protect the right to health and to fully utilise all pro-public health flexibilities available in international law?

The ANC initiated and supports the amendment of South Africa's Intellectual Property laws in order to protect the right to health and to fully utilise all pro-public health flexibilities that are in the Trade and Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreements available in international law. The ANC-led government is giving urgent attention to this matter, with various departments and other local and international partners collaborating to bring this matter to its conclusion.

b. Do you commit to finalising this policy process before the 2014 elections and introducing new legislation as a priority in the next parliament?

The policy will not be finalized before the 2014 elections as there is work that still needs to be done. However, this matter is a priority and work is being done to finalize policy and legislation. The ANC-government will facilitate dialogue and engagements of different stakeholders so as to have a policy that will be acceptable to the majority. That will continue to be a priority in the next term of governance.

4. District and provincial AIDS Councils

a. Will your party ensure that performance evaluations of MECs and premiers include a measure of their success or failure in budgeting for and ensuring the success of provincial and district AIDS councils?

The current situation pertaining to Provincial and District AIDS councils is as follows:

Out of the 9 provinces which all have AIDS councils, 8 of the councils are chaired by the Premiers. The agenda of the HIV and AIDS response in provinces has been lifted by the ANC-led government to the highest levels of political leadership. Only in one province, which is not being governed by the ANC, viz. Western Cape, is the AIDS council still chaired by the MEC of Health. Out of the 52 districts, 40 have already launched their councils which are chaired by the mayors. All the 40 are in Districts which are governed by the ANC. 166 municipalities have launched their councils led by the mayors, all of them are in provinces governed by the ANC. 484 wards have already launched their Ward AIDS committees, chaired by their wards councillors. All of these are in ANC-governed provinces and are driven by the ANC elected political leadership.

5 of the 9 provinces have dedicated resources in the form of staff and budgets, All the 5 are in ANC led provinces. The ANC is committed to lead the HIV & AIDS and TB response from the highest political level and is committed to ensure that in the next government, all the ANC-governed provinces will have dedicated budgets and management and administrative capacity to drive the multi sector HIV & AIDS and TB response.

There are already efforts under way to work with SALGA in strengthening the capacity of the political leadership to lead the local HIV & AIDS and TB response.

The ANC-led province of KwaZulu Natal has developed and is implanting a model of integrated service delivery that addresses issues of HIV & AIDS and TB together with the war on poverty. It is a model which has already being documented as a best practice and is currently being rolled out in other provinces. In terms of the model, Districts and local councils are obliged to mainstream the HIV & AIDS and TB response in their programmes and provide the necessary resources.

Already the ANC is committed to ensuring that the political leadership has as one of their key performance area, the leadership of the HIV & AIDS and TB response. The ANC-led government established the practice of involving a broad range of stakeholders such as government departments, non-governmental organisations, labour, the private sector and various interest groups in the drafting, adoption and implementation of the National Strategic plan for HIV, STIs and Tuberculosis. This practice will continue as it is central to the success that has been attained since 1994, but more spectacularly in the last five years from 2009 to date.

The ANC led in the implementation of a resolution that anti-HIV and AIDS programs be led by the President, Premiers and Mayors at national, provincial and local government level. These leaders of government delegated the function of implementing these programs to very senior leaders such as the Deputy President, Minister and Members of the Executive Council for Health. This will remain as the core governance arrangement by the ANC-led government. Mayors, relevant MECs and Premiers will continue to be champions of this program.

b. What steps will you take to ensure that performance evaluations include this measure?

The evaluation of Mayors, relevant MECs and Premiers includes their overall performance in the implementation of health programs. The functioning of AIDS councils will continue to be included in that evaluation.

5. TB in prisons

a. What concrete steps will your party take to ensure that the problem of overcrowding in prisons is solved?

Government is committed to resolving the challenge of overcrowding in prisons. The ANC-led government has transformed the Department of Correctional services from its apartheid character to its present form.

The following methods are being used to deal with this overcrowding:

1. the building of five (5) additional correctional facilities in KZN, Limpopo and Mpumalanga Provinces; and
2. a parole system that is linked to an efficient electronic tracking system for those prisoners who will be released on parole.

b. How will your party demonstrate political will to respect, protect, promote and fulfil the right to health in prisons?

The ANC has put policies and programs in place that ensure that there is sustained cooperation between various government departments such as Health, Correctional Services, Public Service and Administration, Public Works and Justice and Constitutional Development. This contributes and will continue to contribute to the promotion of the right to health in prisons. The ANC-led government has intensified a program against TB and HIV in correctional services and this will be expanded to cover other health issues. This is exemplified by hosting World TB Day in 2013 at Pollsmoor Correctional Facility at which the guidelines for TB prevention and control were launched as well as the deployment of GeneXpert to rapidly diagnose both drug sensitive and drug resistant TB in prisons was initiated. This approach has already shown promise and will be expanded to all correctional facilities in the next two and a half years – all inmates will be screened for TB and tested for HIV routinely and those needing treatment will receive treatment. In addition, household contacts of inmates are traced and screened for TB as well with referrals for treatment as appropriate.

6. Quackery

a. Will you commit to sufficient funding for the law enforcement unit and support speedy prosecutions of quacks?

The ANC strongly believes that Quackery is a danger to the healthcare system, and will do everything in its power, including making resources available to combat it

b. What steps will your party take to guard the independence of the SAHPRA? Will you ensure that it has funding sufficient to allow it to perform its statutory functions efficiently and timeously?

The SAHPRA must be independent from public pressure, political interference and commercial influence to enable it to take decisions based on science and take into account public health considerations.

The ANC-led government specifically promulgated the SAHPRA Act to achieve this very objective. SAHPRA will have the ability to generate its own income which will be levied to the very same pharmaceutical companies that utilise the services of SAHPRA, so that it does not depend largely on government budget.

7. Cervical cancer

What concrete steps will your party take to ensure that more women are screened for cervical cancer?

The ANC-led government is implementing programs that promote cervical cancer and breast cancer screening as methods of combatting cancer in women. Routine screening for cervical cancer, especially in the context of HIV was strengthened in 2009. The cervical cancer screening rate in 2012/13 was 55.4% and for the first two quarters of 2013/14 this has increased to 60.7% - this indicator is part of the District Health Information System and is monitored quarterly. The much lauded program of wide promotion of the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine in girls of school-going age is evidence of the ANC's commitment to decreasing the incidence and prevalence of cervical cancer among women. Commencing in March 2014 vaccination will be conducted on all Grade 4 girls on an annual basis.

At 500 000 girls to be vaccinated this year, this is the largest programme in Africa at present. The ANC will continue to be fully behind initiatives against cervical cancer such as the Stop Cervical Cancer in Africa conference, a regular event organised by the Princess Nikky Cancer Foundation and fully supported by the Forum of African First Ladies. The ANC recognises the importance of cancer prevention programs must be directed to men, as most succumb to prostate and lung cancers.

8. HIV prevention

Does your party support the provision of both condoms and comprehensive sex education in schools?

President Zuma launched the Integrated School Health Programme (ISHP) in October 2012 which targets all phases of primary and high schooling. Sexual and reproductive health programmes are part of the ISHP. Grade 4's are exposed to a programme called "Know your body!" and age appropriate sexual and reproductive health services are provided to those in grade 8 and higher. Sexually active learners are provided with contraceptives in one-to-one interactions with school health nurses or referred to clinics where contraceptives, inclusive of condoms, are provided.

9. National Health Insurance

a. Does your party support the introduction of National Health Insurance?

The ANC is the initiator and supporter of policies and programs designed to ensure that the National Health Insurance becomes a reality in South Africa. The ANC has demonstrated and continues to demonstrate its commitment to the implementation of NHI.

b. Does your party commit to increased public spending to improve the quality of the public health care system and to the Abuja target of spending in health being 15% of the national budget?

The ANC-led government is a signatory to the Abuja Declaration, by virtue of being a Member of the African Union (AU). But presently we believe NHI will go beyond the Abuja Declaration in resolving the issue of healthcare financing.

c. Will your party support the reasonable regulation by law of medicines prices and of private health facilities and services?

Yes, the ANC strongly believes in the reasonable regulation by law, of medicine prices and of private health facilities and services

10. Accountability and co-operation

a. Do you commit to only appointing appropriately qualified and committed persons as MECs of Health?

It will continue to be the practice of the ANC in all provinces to appoint appropriately qualified, competent and committed persons as MECs of Health.

b. Will you meaningfully engage with civil society and set up Provincial Health Consultative Forums as required by the NHA?

The ANC-led government will ensure that Provincial Consultative Health Forums and the National Consultative Health Forum are convened and are fully functional. These forums which are the innovation of the ANC-led government are a vehicle for meaningful engagement with all health stakeholders which include, among others, governance structures and civil society.

c. Do you condemn any form of intimidation and support the rights of whistle-blowers in the health service?

The ANC supports the rights of whistle-blowers and condemns any form of intimidation. The ANC further believes that it is the obligation of all citizens to contribute to greater freedom and democracy by collecting facts or evidence and to report any acts of crime, violence, corruption and intimidation.

d. Will you immediately dismiss or suspend any health official implicated, charged or found guilty of corruption?

The ANC believes that anyone who is implicated or charged with corruption has right to due process and, if necessary, a right to appear before the court of law. The suspension or dismissal of any official will be done in line with existing laws and policies.

e. Do you commit to annual open performance assessments of MECs and premiers?

It is the practice of the ANC-led government to assess the performance of Executing Authorities and their departments and that practice will continue. The ANC-led government has implemented Negotiated Service Delivery Agreements NSDA, an innovation that would be very beneficial when it is operationalised government-wide.

11. Openness, transparency and freedom of expression

a. Will your party reform or repeal the Protection of State Information Bill?

The ANC is committed to freedom and democracy. This is what the ANC stands for, has struggled to achieve and is committed to uphold and defend. The ANC prioritizes programs against corruption and crime. That includes the promotion of freedom of expression and a free press capable of holding government, the private sector and civil society to account and exposing corruption wherever it occurs in society.

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The ANC was party to discussions, amendment and passage of the Protection of State Information Bill through Parliament. The Bill currently awaits the signature of the President of the Republic. The ANC is satisfied that the Protection of State Information Bill, in its current form, was appropriately subjected to democratic processes as established in the Parliament and as prescribed by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

b. Does your party support or oppose the establishment of a statutory media appeals tribunal?

The ANC supports the establishment of a statutory media tribunal as contained in the Protection of State Information Bill that was approved in Parliament.

Political Party Responses to the TAC's People's Health Manifesto

Agang SA

1. The National Strategic Plan for HIV, STIs and Tuberculosis

a. Are you committed to meeting the targets identified in the NSP? How will you demonstrate a commitment to meeting the NSP targets?

Agang SA is committed to investing and exceeding the agreed targets. We will do so by ensuring effective governance and professional management, by ensuring only professionally qualified people manage public health care facilities.

b. When the current NSP ends in 2016 will you agree to a new set of targets to ensure 100% of people with HIV who need treatment can access it?

Agang SA sees no reason not to commit to 100% treatment access in a country with our resources and expertise. We are fully committed to ensuring 100% of people with HIV who need treatment can access treatment post-2016.

2. Stockouts of essential medicines

a. Do you agree that preventable medicine stockouts are unlawful and a violation of health rights?

Absolutely, medicine stockouts are part of the culture of corruption that informs and inhibits the management of public resources.

b. What concrete steps will your party take to bring an end to stockouts of essential medicines?

We will employ a zero tolerance approach to corruption - one strike and you are out. No one guilty of corruption should be allowed back into public service.

We will ensure proper governance and incorporate prominent systems that have been abandoned, such as bar-coding so we are able to track stock levels.

We will protect and incentive whistle blowers to ensure the detection of wrong doing is simpler, easier and quicker.

We will incentivize public servants and line managers linking pay increases to performance.

3. Patent law reform

a. Does your party support the amendment of South Africa's intellectual property laws in order to protect the right to health and to fully utilise all pro-public health flexibilities available in international law?

AgangSA supports the World Health Organisation approach of identification for essential drugs and would ensure its application in South Africa. The South Africa problem has been that of poor capacity within the public sector to enforce this flexibility. Our commitment to a professional public service will address this.

b. Do you commit to finalising this policy process before the 2014 elections and introducing new legislation as a priority in the next parliament?

We will work with other political parties and the CFO to introduce new legislation as a matter of priority.

4. District and provincial AIDS Councils

a. Will your party ensure that performance evaluations of MECs and premiers include a measure of their success or failure in budgeting for and ensuring the success of provincial and district AIDS councils?

Agang SA will only appoint MEC's who are properly qualified, to head and manage public health systems.

Agang SA believes in performance linked management approaches to ensure proper functioning of provincial and AIDS councils.

b. What steps will you take to ensure that performance evaluations include this measure?

Performance management must be guided by agreed priorities and targets. We will ensure that this measure is included.

We will include Provincial and District Aids council support as a key performance area for MEC's and premiers.

5. TB in prisons

a. What concrete steps will your party take to ensure that the problem of overcrowding in prisons is solved?

A more efficient and effective criminal justice system is a key part of effective governance. Effective governance is one of the five E's in our turnaround plan for South Africa.

We commit through effective governance to revamping prison facilities to ensure better ventilation, nutrition and encourage lifestyle changes.

We believe real empowerment means citizens should ultimately be able and encouraged to take ownership of their well being and futures: we will do all we can to ensure that citizens do not have to resort to acts that land them in prison through the turnaround plan we have recently unveiled: empowerment, education, entrepreneurship, employment and effective governance.

b. How will your party demonstrate political will to respect, protect, promote and fulfil the right to health in prisons?

We will insist on regular inspection visits by health inspectors with strict rules and penalties to enforcing compliance.

All prisons and prisoners should have access to high quality healthcare that is managed by healthcare professionals with political oversight given by professional healthcare professionals. A functioning healthcare system should work closely with prisons to ensure health in prisons is prioritised.

We will work to ensure inmates take responsibility for their own well being and we will monitor interventions to ensure they are able to exercise their rights and lifestyle decisions.

It is the Agang SA ethos that all citizens should enjoy the benefits of democracy without overt and excessive government interference.

We believe government's role is create an environment for the exercise of citizen's rights.

6. Quackery

a. Will you commit to sufficient funding for the law enforcement unit and support speedy prosecutions of quacks?

Agang SA regards quackery as corruption, and has zero tolerance for it. Funding will be made available to fight corruption, as Agang SA lends its political will to efforts.

b. What steps will your party take to guard the independence of the SAHPRA? Will you ensure that it has funding sufficient to allow it to perform its statutory functions efficiently and timeously?

The SAHPRA has to be run and managed by professionals of impeccable credentials to be independent and fearless. We will direct sufficient resources to enable them to do their work without fear or favour.

7. Cervical cancer

What concrete steps will your party take to ensure that more women are screened for cervical cancer?

Agang SA believes in empowerment of citizens and women in particular given the challenges they face.

We expect that the professional public service management we insist on, with professionally qualified healthcare staff at management and MEC level, will run extensive awareness campaigns to ensure women understand the need for screening.

By focusing on running an effective government, we will ensure a well-managed and well-resourced health care system that can enable regular screening.

An effective healthcare system extends into rural areas, and includes primary healthcare interventions, additional doctors and nurses, strengthened regional facilities, and all the equipment required by hospitals and clinics.

8. HIV prevention

Does your party support the provision of both condoms and comprehensive sex education in schools?

Ignorance is the enemy of empowerment. We will ensure condoms are provided to those who are sexually active and we will ensure comprehensive sex education in schools to run alongside programmes that encourage learners to understand risks and the need to take control of their lives and futures.

9. National Health Insurance

a. Does your party support the introduction of National Health Insurance?

Agang SA supports the NHI introduction but believes it can only be successful if implemented by an effective government with healthcare professionals at all facility level

b. Does your party commit to increased public spending to improve the quality of the public health care system and to the Abuja target of spending in health being 15% of the national budget?

Agang SA believes that with effective government we can afford to put more money into public health, utilise it better, and retain highly qualified professionals to ensure high quality health care.

c. Will your party support the reasonable regulation by law of medicines prices and of private health facilities and services?

An effective government is essential to regulate and monitor proper services to citizens. A performance linked regulating system with predictable policies and rules is essential.

10. Accountability and co-operation

a. Do you commit to only appointing appropriately qualified and committed persons as MECs of Health?

Yes

b. Will you meaningfully engage with civil society and set up Provincial Health Consultative Forums as required by the NHA?

Yes

c. Do you condemn any form of intimidation and support the rights of whistle-blowers in the health service?

Our zero tolerance for corruption has been made public. We will protect and incentivise whistle-blowers. We condemn intimidation of whistle blowers.

d. Will you immediately dismiss or suspend any health official implicated, charged or found guilty of corruption?

Our zero tolerance policy is clear: anyone caught and found guilty of corruption will be dismissed. We will keep a register of corrupt officials. They will not be permitted to re-enter public service.

e. Do you commit to annual open performance assessments of MECs and premiers?

Yes we commit to open annual performance assessments of MEC's Premiers.

11. Openness, transparency and freedom of expression

a. Will your party reform or repeal the Protection of State Information Bill?

Agang SA will repeal the current bill and introduce one more in line with our constitutional values of transporting and freedom of expression.

b. Does your party support or oppose the establishment of a statutory media appeals tribunal?

Agang SA opposes bureaucracy. We believe that the media should strengthen its own self-regulatory processes and we believe in strengthening the competition authorities to ensure a more competitive media landscape with more strong media voices to ensure a contestation of views and ideas and increase accountability to a more discerning society. We accept it may be necessary to amend legislation to ensure a stronger media sector.

Political Party Responses to the TAC's People's Health Manifesto Azanian People's Organisation

1. The National Strategic Plan for HIV, STIs and Tuberculosis

AZAPO: is fully committed to the NSP target of reducing new TB infections and TB deaths by 50% in 2016; and initiating at least 80% of eligible patients on antiretroviral treatment by 2016. Having made that commitment, AZAPO believes there is room to radically increase the targets as and when a new NSP is introduced in 2016. One death is one too many. The health of a nation should be a priority; just the same way the health of a President is prioritised. The members of the Executive have unhindered access to free world class health facilities like Military One hospital. AZAPO insists that ordinary members of the public should be deemed equal to the Executive members when it comes to health issues. At a micro level, AZAPO has demonstrated its commitment to the NSP targets by ensuring that there is a slot for health awareness at its meetings to educate the membership and leadership about the imperatives of a healthy nation. Despite resources constraints, AZAPO has recently revived its Community Health Awareness Project (CHAP) that was once led our late Head of Health Dr Abubaker Asvat. CHAP has taken off in some parts of rural areas like Limpopo and KwaZulu under the able hand of our Head of Health Dr GM Motebe.

a. Are you committed to meeting the targets identified in the NSP? How will you demonstrate a commitment to meeting the NSP targets?

b. When the current NSP ends in 2016 will you agree to a new set of targets to ensure 100% of people with HIV who need treatment can access it?

2. Stockouts of essential medicines

The recent exposing of drug stockouts by the SSP lends credence to AZAPO's observation that the ruling party does not have the health interests of the nation at heart; and that the health of the nation is therefore not treated as a priority. Otherwise, how does anyone explain the stockouts in the area of essential medicines for three months? Would the same happen at the Military One Hospital and private hospitals where the members of the Executive and families receive world-class medical attention? No. The stockouts of preventable medicines are not only unlawful, but are a direct violation of our Constitutional Fundamental Right to Life. Our role as of now is to use our limited Constituency Offices, Public Representatives and Branches throughout the country to monitor the supply of essential medicines and expose the government where there are stockouts.

a. Do you agree that preventable medicine stockouts are unlawful and a violation of health rights?

b. What concrete steps will your party take to bring an end to stockouts of essential medicines?

3. Patent law reform

The publication of the South African National Policy on Intellectual Property (SANIPP) was done in September 2013. If the health of the nation was a priority to the ruling party, it is not unreasonable to have expected them to prioritise and expedite the enactment of a life and death legislation like the patent law reform. It is common knowledge that the powerful Innovative Pharmaceutical Association of South Africa (IPASA) expressed its unhappiness with the SANIPP and committed to fight and block its implementation. IPASA has since approached the US-based lobbying entity know as Public Affairs Engagement (PAE). PAE has already proposed a ferocious campaign to delay or make the SANIPP implementation a non-starter. AZAPO strongly believes in a patent system that promotes innovation while ensuring public access to the products of that innovation. To be sure, in 1997 South Africa passed the Medicines and Related Substances Control Amendment Act with the objective to, inter alia, reduce drug prices by introducing generic substitution of off-patent drugs. After the unsuccessful attempt by the South African Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (SAPMA) and 40 multinational corporations to challenge the Act in court, it is AZAPO's observation that the government has made no attempt to radically implement its own laws.

This speaks of a government and ruling party that does not see the health of the nation as a priority. Accordingly, AZAPO will put pressure on government to pass the relevant laws before the 2014 elections.

a. Does your party support the amendment of South Africa's intellectual property laws in order to protect the right to health and to fully utilise all pro-public health flexibilities available in international law?

b. Do you commit to finalising this policy process before the 2014 elections and introducing new legislation as a priority in the next parliament?

4. District and provincial AIDS Councils

Presently, the AIDS Councils in most areas are virtually dysfunctional. This is because there is lack of political will on the part of powerful politicians like Premiers and Mayors to give propelling support to these important bodies. Once again, the awful attitude of refusing to prioritise the health of the nation rears its ugly head. At the moment AZAPO does not enjoy extensive representation in many provincial legislatures around the country. But as a voice of reason, AZAPO will mobilise the civil society that includes the media to expose this callous omission on the part of politicians.

a. Will your party ensure that performance evaluations of MECs and premiers include a measure of their success or failure in budgeting for and ensuring the success of provincial and district AIDS councils?

b. What steps will you take to ensure that performance evaluations include this measure?

5. TB in prisons

Unfortunately, in South Africa where racism still persist (in one form or another) and the legacy of apartheid endures, it is inescapable that diseases will as a matter of course assume a race and means profile. Certain diseases primarily affect poor black people. This profiling has an influence in determining whether or not certain diseases will receive the meaningful attention of the government and relevant institutions. It is also a socio-political fact that the prison population is predominantly black. It goes without saying that those who by design live in mekhukhu will also live in mekhukhu prisons. This no doubt increases the infection rate in the black communities in and out of prisons. Consistent with the culture of human rights, AZAPO believes the state should renovate and modernise the present prisons with a bias to space, ventilation and dignity. An attempt should be made to reduce prison population by not mechanically resorting to incarceration and invoking the parole system where necessary and justified.

a. What concrete steps will your party take to ensure that the problem of overcrowding in prisons is solved?

b. How will your party demonstrate political will to respect, protect, promote and fulfil the right to health in prisons?

6. Quackery

Two things make our people vulnerable – lack of information and desperation. This, coupled with the visible neglect by the state, leads to our people falling prey to vultures that want to make a quick buck out of their misery and plight. AZAPO welcomes the fact that the “underfunded, inefficient and vulnerable to corruption” Medicines Control Council will this year be replaced by the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA). AZAPO believes this institutional change will be merely cosmetic if SAHPRA will not receive sufficient funding and be led by competent individuals who will make sure it is free from the corruptive influence of industry and corrupt interference by politicians.

a. Will you commit to sufficient funding for the law enforcement unit and support speedy prosecutions of quacks?

b. What steps will your party take to guard the independence of the SAHPRA? Will you ensure that it has funding sufficient to allow it to perform its statutory functions efficiently and timeously?

7. Cervical cancer

What concrete steps will your party take to ensure that more women are screened for cervical cancer?

It is no secret that South Africa remains a sexist and patriarchal society despite all claims to the contrary. The neglect of women's health has a structural origin to the way society generally deals with women. AZAPO's 2014 Manifesto commits an AZAPO administration to ensure that women's health issues receive attention in research, provision of health services and in building awareness. The manifesto further commits an AZAPO administration to expand the geographical footprint of the healthcare system by building more healthcare facilities. These steps particularly the building of public awareness and expanding the geographical footprint of health care provision will ensure that more women are screened.

8. HIV prevention

Does your party support the provision of both condoms and comprehensive sex education in schools?

AZAPO's emphasis is on provision of a comprehensive life skills education (which include sex education) in our schools. The schools are where the critical cohorts with regards to HIV infection are to be found. There should therefore be no school without access to condoms and the relevant education.

9. National Health Insurance

Yes. In its 2014 Manifesto AZAPO talks about the guaranteeing of access to healthcare by instituting universal healthcare coverage. AZAPO favours a single payer model, which means government will pay for all medical services at the point of need. The effect of this is the increase in social spending. This scheme cannot be effective if the government will not make the necessary legislative and regulatory interventions to keep the prices of medicines reasonable; and by extension the private health facilities and services.

a. Does your party support the introduction of National Health Insurance?

b. Does your party commit to increased public spending to improve the quality of the public health care system and to the Abuja target of spending in health being 15% of the national budget?

c. Will your party support the reasonable regulation by law of medicines prices and of private health facilities and services?

10. Accountability and co-operation

AZAPO: believes that our people deserve only the best. They had to contend with the worst under apartheid, and they cannot be expected to accept the worst under a democratic dispensation. AZAPO is strongly opposed to the concept of cadre deployment if it means a party must appoint its own members even when not qualified for the job. This is not only criminal, it is also counter-revolutionary. In our organisational health portfolio we have enjoyed almost impeccable services of esteemed professionals like the late Dr Abubaker Asvat, Dr Vusi Dlamini and the incumbent Dr GM Motebe. In the event AZAPO did not have appropriately qualified personnel (a rare possibility), we will be too keen to work with patriots from other political parties or the citizens. As they say, charity begins at home. The AZAPO Constitution has Call and Recall principle, which means in our organisation members enjoy a right to recall those that are not performing as required. AZAPO does not only believe in the right of the people to recall corrupt and under-performing politicians, but essentially in the right of citizens to rebel against an oppressive government.

a. Do you commit to only appointing appropriately qualified and committed persons as MECs of Health?

b. Will you meaningfully engage with civil society and set up Provincial Health Consultative Forums as required by the NHA?

c. Do you condemn any form of intimidation and support the rights of whistle-blowers in the health service?

d. Will you immediately dismiss or suspend any health official implicated, charged or found guilty of corruption?

e. Do you commit to annual open performance assessments of MECs and premiers?

11. Openness, transparency and freedom of expression

In the 1980s and subsequent years AZAPO has had to come face to face with intimidation and political intolerance. The homes of our members were set alight and our Comrades necklaced. But all that has not diminished our commitment to the principle of political tolerance and free political activism. In our struggle for liberation we fought for the freedom of association and expression; and it is now enshrined in the Constitution as part of the Bill of Rights. AZAPO understands the value of whistleblowers in fighting corruption. AZAPO will give them full protection.

a. Will your party reform or repeal the Protection of State Information Bill?

b. Does your party support or oppose the establishment of a statutory media appeals tribunal?

Political Party Responses to the TAC's People's Health Manifesto Democratic Alliance

1. The National Strategic Plan for HIV, STIs and Tuberculosis

a. Are you committed to meeting the targets identified in the NSP? How will you demonstrate a commitment to meeting the NSP targets?

Yes. Where we govern in the Western Cape, we have demonstrated this commitment through:

- The development of a Provincial Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS, STIs and TB in which we identify provincial risk factors and problem areas and develop strategic responses to ensure that we can meet the national targets. We have also identified the key strategic enablers that underpin the Provincial Strategic Plan and that will determine the success of its implementation, including: governance and institutional arrangements; effective communication; monitoring and evaluation; and research.
- We have established a Provincial Aids Council and Secretariat, and have empowered these bodies to operationalise the strategic interventions that will help us meet the NSP targets. Among other things, the Provincial Aids Council oversees the mobilisation of resources for HIV, STI and TB programmes, assesses progress towards achieving the NSP objectives and targets, and identifies achievements, new opportunities and lessons learned across sectors and implementation levels (national, provincial and district).

b. When the current NSP ends in 2016 will you agree to a new set of targets to ensure 100% of people with HIV who need treatment can access it?

- Our target must be to provide HIV treatment to every person who needs it. We will participate in the national review of targets for HIV treatment and will support any efforts ensure universal access to treatment, care and support for HIV, TB and STIs.

2. Stockouts of essential medicines

a. Do you agree that preventable medicine stockouts are unlawful and a violation of health rights?

Section 27(1) of the South African Constitution identifies the "right to have access to health care services" as a basic human right and determines that "no one may be refused emergency medical treatment". Where stockouts prevent such services or treatment from being provided, they represent a violation of these rights.

b. What concrete steps will your party take to bring an end to stockouts of essential medicines?

In national government, we would modernising the health system and use information technology to bring about systemic improvements – including improvements to the system of procuring and distributing medicines. The DA will use the tools available to ensure that there is medicine in every clinic and hospital. Consideration will also be given to the introduction of technology and systems that will allow patients to collect medicines from any accredited pharmacy, making collection more convenient and less time consuming.

3. Patent law reform

a. Does your party support the amendment of South Africa's intellectual property laws in order to protect the right to health and to fully utilise all pro-public health flexibilities available in international law?

- Immediate steps must be taken to prevent pharmaceutical companies from using legal loopholes to extend patents to block competition from affordable generic versions .
- Changes to intellectual property laws must not remove the incentive for investment in research and development that could have significant long term benefits for public health.
- Full use should be made of existing protections under competition law and the mechanisms in existing laws which allows for the issuing of compulsory licenses.
- The DA will support patent law reforms which balance South Africa's public health needs with necessary intellectual property protections under international law.

b. Do you commit to finalising this policy process before the 2014 elections and introducing new legislation as a priority in the next parliament?

There is an existing policy process aiming to be finalised by April 2014. The DA will participate in all reviews and discussion of this policy and insist on appropriate public consultation around the policy. This is a critical health issue that must be prioritised by the next parliament.

4. District and provincial AIDS Councils

a. Will your party ensure that performance evaluations of MECs and premiers include a measure of their success or failure in budgeting for and ensuring the success of provincial and district AIDS councils?

- Where the DA governs in the Western Cape, the Provincial Strategic Plan (PSP) on HIV/Aids, STIs and TB guides all provincial stakeholders in the development of implementation plans that will reflect their specific contributions to the achievement of the PSP. These plans are costed and resources are mobilized where possible to support implementation. All implementation plans are multi-sectoral in their orientation and clearly demonstrate accountability and responsibility for all interventions across all stakeholders (for example, the role of civil society stakeholders in the implementation of interventions in the province), and driven by the provincial and district AIDS or health councils.
- Given their strategic role in the fight against HIV/Aids, STIs and TB, the performance evaluations of DA premiers and MEC will reflect their implementation of NSP objectives.

b. What steps will you take to ensure that performance evaluations include this measure?

- Objectives around provincial aids councils and district aids or health councils must be included in Annual Performance Plans which inform performance evaluations.
- Adequate monitoring and evaluation measures must be developed to monitor performance/ implementation.

5. TB in prisons

a. What concrete steps will your party take to ensure that the problem of overcrowding in prisons is solved?

There are two main drivers of overcrowding. The first is that remand detainees are often imprisoned for lengthy periods while awaiting trial because of poor case flow management. Frequently such detainees are granted bail but cannot afford it, and equally frequently such detainees are eventually found not guilty. Secondly, many judicial officers hand down sentences of imprisonment routinely because they lack confidence in the effectiveness or deterrence of non-custodial sentences.

A DA government will:

- Increase prison space: Ease prison overcrowding by allocating additional resources to prison construction. In the short term, we would invest in at least two prisons (6 000 bed spaces) in addition to what is currently planned by the DCS.
- Develop a regime of effective non-custodial sentences: Offenders (particularly first-time, non-violent and young offenders) can and should be put to work in the communities they have harmed. Frequently such sentences are more effective, and constitute more of a deterrent, than imprisoning offenders and have the additional advantage of keeping such offenders out of the clutches of the gangs.
- Not grant special remission: Presidential special remissions undermine the authority of the courts, undermine the deterrent effect of imprisonment, and are a slap in the face to victims of crime.
- Use tagging and tracking technology as an alternative to the incarceration of awaiting trial detainees.
- Improve the classification of remand detainees and separate first time inmates from repeat offenders to ensure to the greatest extent possible that first time inmates are not exposed to prison gangs.
- Fully implement the Correctional Matters Amendment Act that provides for the establishment of management regimes for vulnerable remand detainees (including women, the elderly and those with health problems).
- Make it mandatory for courts to review cases where unsentenced prisoners have been held for more than three months and provide the DCS with the necessary systems to monitor the implementation of such a provision.
- Review bail protocols to avoid the incarceration of awaiting trial detainees in non-violent cases simply because bail is unaffordable.
- Strengthen the mandate of the heads of correctional centres to apply for the amendment of bail conditions in terms of Section 63A of the Criminal Procedure Act on account of prevailing conditions in prisons (including overcrowding).

b. How will your party demonstrate political will to respect, protect, promote and fulfil the right to health in prisons?

- **We prioritise prison safety, overcrowding, prison design and prisoner's rights in our Correctional Services Policy (included in our Safety Policy).**
- To fulfil the right to health we will fill critical vacancies in the Correctional System (including vacancies for social workers, psychologists, nurses, medical practitioners and pharmacists) as a matter of urgency.
- Prisoner's rights can only be protected if effective oversight is provided. This must include:
 - Judges and the magistracy must visit prisons, write reports and make recommendations to the Minister of Correctional Services.
 - The Parliamentary Committees on Correctional Services and their members must visit prisons and interview inmates. Their reports on these visits must be tabled in, and debated by, Parliament.
 - The Inspecting Judge of Correctional Services, and his or her Inspectorate is an institution established in terms of the Correctional Services Act. The Inspectorate consists of legal and compliance officers as well as a wide network of Independent Correctional Centre Visitors (ICCVs). The Judge and the Inspectorate must inspect prisons, whilst any inmate must be able to

register complaints with the ICCVs. These complaints must be logged and followed up, normally in structured meetings between the ICCVs and the prison management. The Inspecting Judge must produce an annual report which is sent to the Minister and tabled in Parliament.

— Creating a separate budget for the Inspecting Judge. Currently, the budget for the Inspecting Judge comes from the DCS, and its post establishment must be approved and funded by the National Commissioner of Correctional Services, as the accounting officer. This is inherently unhealthy, as it could compromise the independence of the Office of the Inspecting Judge. Accordingly, the DA would establish the Inspecting Judge as an independent institution with its own budget, reporting directly to Parliament, in much the same way as the Chapter 9 Institutions do.

— Building a stronger partnership with civil society. A great deal of very valuable work and research is undertaken by civil society organisations, including but not limited to Khulusa, NICRO, CSPRI and JDI. There are also numerous faith based organisations that minister to prisoners. The DA would form partnerships with these organisations to tap into their knowledge and to invite their participation in initiatives to root out corruption and power abuse in prisons, to protect prisoners' rights and to improve the prospects of successful rehabilitation.

6. Quackery

a. Will you commit to sufficient funding for the law enforcement unit and support speedy prosecutions of quacks?

Yes. Unlawful and unproven procedures and treatments endanger lives and the government must do everything in its power to prevent it. The Law Enforcement Unit within the Department of Health must be appropriately capacitated and fully operational.

b. What steps will your party take to guard the independence of the SAHPRA? Will you ensure that it has funding sufficient to allow it to perform its statutory functions efficiently and timeously?

All legislative mandates must be appropriately funded. The South African Health Products Regulatory Authority will play a critical role preventing harmful illegal medicines and procedures. Such a body must be led by competent individuals, it must receive the necessary funding to perform its functions and its activities must be monitored by the Department of Health and the multiparty portfolio committee on health in the National Assembly.

7. Cervical cancer

What concrete steps will your party take to ensure that more women are screened for cervical cancer?

Where we govern in the Western Cape, the DA has prioritised women's health issues. The DA understands that when a cancer is detected at an early stage, there is a much better chance of cure. We have dedicated programmes focused on women and their health needs, and specifically to increase the detection of cervical and breast cancer among women. Our Women's Health Campaigns targets women from across the Western Cape, to encourage them to access public health clinics in the province for cervical cancer and breast cancer screening. In 2012 in the Western Cape, more than 83 000 cervical cancer screenings were done on women over 30 years of age. Close to 80% of cervical cancers are caused by the Human Papillomavirus. Vaccinations can prevent the virus from developing on the cervix. The World Health Organisation has recommended vaccinating girls before they are sexually active (between 9 to 13 years). The Western Cape Health Department is therefore visiting schools in stages to administer vaccines to girls in Grade 4.

8. HIV prevention

Does your party support the provision of both condoms and comprehensive sex education in schools?

Yes

9. National Health Insurance

a. Does your party support the introduction of National Health Insurance?

The DA supports the underlying principle in the National Health Insurance (NHI) strategy that there must be better cooperation between the public and private sectors and that partnerships between these two spheres can improve health services for all.

The NHI strategy, however, does not adequately address the problems in the public health sector – like bad management, lack of equipment, high vacancy rates etc. Bad decisions about how the cooperation between the public and private sector should take place and forcing private doctors and hospitals into agreements is also likely to undermine private sector health services and make even more patients reliant on the state for health services.

Political Party Responses to the TAC's People's Health Manifesto

We will only be able to make sure that every South African has access to health care if we can make sure that our health care solutions fix the problems in the public sector and allow private service providers to use business models that they know to be successful and sustainable.

b. Does your party commit to increased public spending to improve the quality of the public health care system and to the Abuja target of spending in health being 15% of the national budget?

Health budgets must be determined by health needs and addressed in the most effective manner within the available resources.

On a national level, health spending currently accounts for nearly 12% of the national budget. (According to the consolidated spending by functional and economic classification, 2014/15).

The 15% Abuja target includes spending on the achievement of all health-related Millennium Development Goals, goals for universal coverage of basic healthcare, health equity goals, and financial risk protection. Research suggests that South Africa currently achieves the Abuja target.

Where we govern in the Western Cape, the Health budget currently accounts for 36% of the provincial budget.

c. Will your party support the reasonable regulation by law of medicines prices and of private health facilities and services?

No response

10. Accountability and co-operation

a. Do you commit to only appointing appropriately qualified and committed persons as MECs of Health?

Yes

b. Will you meaningfully engage with civil society and set up Provincial Health Consultative Forums as required by the NHA?

Yes. Where we govern in the Western Cape, wide consultation is one of the pillars of our approach to wellness (as outline in the Western Cape Department of Health's Healthcare 2030 strategy).

c. Do you condemn any form of intimidation and support the rights of whistle-blowers in the health service?

Yes

d. Will you immediately dismiss or suspend any health official implicated, charged or found guilty of corruption?

Yes. Appropriate disciplinary and, where necessary, legal action will be taken.

e. Do you commit to annual open performance assessments of MECs and premiers?

- Ministers and Premiers effectively do have open performance assessments through the publication of their Annual Reports and the feedback provided on achieving agreed strategic objectives.
- Civil society organisations, like the TAC, also assess the performance of MECs and premiers.
- The Public Service Commission reviews the efficacy of various provincial departments as well as offices of the premier.
- Provincial government elections give the public an opportunity to assess the performance of the provincial administration.

11. Openness, transparency and freedom of expression

a. Will your party reform or repeal the Protection of State Information Bill?

Yes

b. Does your party support or oppose the establishment of a statutory media appeals tribunal?

The DA opposes the establishment of a statutory media appeals tribunal. We believe that the current system of self-regulation is the best way to simultaneously advance press freedom and fair reporting.

Political Party Responses to the TAC's People's Health Manifesto Freedom Front Plus

1. The National Strategic Plan for HIV, STIs and Tuberculosis

a. Are you committed to meeting the targets identified in the NSP? How will you demonstrate a commitment to meeting the NSP targets?

Yes. The FF Plus believes that these targets can only be achieved by responsible governance, sound financial management and by setting the example of safe and moral behaviour. Informative programmes at schools and in communities regarding TB and HIV, prevention and treatment are essential and should be enhanced.

b. When the current NSP ends in 2016 will you agree to a new set of targets to ensure 100% of people with HIV who need treatment can access it?

Yes. By effectively preventing and reducing new infections, the simultaneous treatment of 100% of HIV infected persons can be achieved and is possible. The FF Plus is of the opinion that the HIV/Aids pandemic cannot be stopped by medical interventions alone but only through a comprehensive social reorientation.

2. Stockouts of essential medicines

a. Do you agree that preventable medicine stockouts are unlawful and a violation of health rights?

Yes. Sound financial and stock management will prevent stockouts of medicines. It is unacceptable that the Departments of Health fail to execute the most basic administrative functions.

b. What concrete steps will your party take to bring an end to stockouts of essential medicines?

Eradicate accruals in the public health care financial systems, instil proper supply chain management, fleet and logistical control and good governance. Officials should be appointed on merit, so doing obtaining competence to deliver services.

3. Patent law reform

a. Does your party support the amendment of South Africa's intellectual property laws in order to protect the right to health and to fully utilise all pro-public health flexibilities available in international law?

A balance between affordability of medicine and the pharmaceutical industry's need to fund essential research and studies to develop and improve drugs, is needed. The FF Plus is not convinced that the proposed policy will obtain this balance. Without intellectual property in terms of medicine there will be less new drug developments. Yet, a social conscious should be priority and the exploitation of the poor and vulnerable should be prevented.

b. Do you commit to finalising this policy process before the 2014 elections and introducing new legislation as a priority in the next parliament?

Sound and responsible policy is necessary

4. District and provincial AIDS Councils

a. Will your party ensure that performance evaluations of MECs and premiers include a measure of their success or failure in budgeting for and ensuring the success of provincial and district AIDS councils?

Yes

b. What steps will you take to ensure that performance evaluations include this measure?

Failure to meet performance goals should result in concrete action taken against such MEC or Premier. Provincial and District AIDS councils should be included as a standard audit outcome for all Departments of Health.

5. TB in prisons

a. What concrete steps will your party take to ensure that the problem of overcrowding in prisons is solved?

Correctional Services and Public Works should cooperate more effectively to expand and maintain correctional facilities.

b. How will your party demonstrate political will to respect, protect, promote and fulfil the right to health in prisons?

Better and functioning health care facilities at prisons should be a priority. This should include diagnostic and preventative medicine.

6. Quackery

a. Will you commit to sufficient funding for the law enforcement unit and support speedy prosecutions of quacks?

Yes. Better counselling and education regarding personal health care, HIV, AIDS, TB, STDs, infections, including prevention and treatment should be a priority at schools and also as part of the primary health care system.

b. What steps will your party take to guard the independence of the SAHPRA? Will you ensure that it has funding sufficient to allow it to perform its statutory functions efficiently and timeously?

An independent and well-functioning regulatory authority is essential. More funds should be allocated to such body. Appointments to the SAHPRA should be done on merit and the composition should be well balanced with different health science disciplines and sectors.

7. Cervical cancer

What concrete steps will your party take to ensure that more women are screened for cervical cancer?

Competence and effectiveness should be restored to primary health care facilities, including mobile clinics. More women, especially rural, should have access to diagnostic procedures, such as pap smears. A clear and effective campaign informing women of HPV, cervical cancer and STDs should be steered as a priority and holistic approach of addressing this disease.

8. HIV prevention

Does your party support the provision of both condoms and comprehensive sex education in schools?

Sex education and counselling is more important at school level. Such is key in creating a healthy society. Condoms should rather be distributed at clinics and community centres.

9. National Health Insurance

a. Does your party support the introduction of National Health Insurance?

No. NHI requires a functioning public healthcare system and infrastructure. NHI cannot be utilised to better the public healthcare infrastructure. If such is the case, it will fail. It is internationally proven that NHI takes between 40 and 60 years to develop and implement in a country. Public health infrastructure should first be upgraded before any form of a National Health Insurance Scheme can be considered. Another prerequisite for NHI is a diminutive gap between rich and poor. A NHI will fail especially the poor in South Africa and worsen the public health care output.

b. Does your party commit to increased public spending to improve the quality of the public health care system and to the Abuja target of spending in health being 15% of the national budget?

A balance between affordability of medicine and the pharmaceutical industry's need to fund essential research and studies to develop and improve drugs, is needed. Regulation should be responsible, conducive towards a productive relationship between the private and public sectors, not detrimental to investments and economic growth and should not damage a healthy free market system. Yet, a social conscious should be priority and the exploitation of the poor and vulnerable should be prevented.

c. Will your party support the reasonable regulation by law of medicines prices and of private health facilities and services?

No response

10. Accountability and co-operation

a. Do you commit to only appointing appropriately qualified and committed persons as MECs of Health?

Yes. And all other officials should be appointed on merit and qualifications.

b. Will you meaningfully engage with civil society and set up Provincial Health Consultative Forums as required by the NHA?

Yes

c. Do you condemn any form of intimidation and support the rights of whistle-blowers in the health service?

Yes

d. Will you immediately dismiss or suspend any health official implicated, charged or found guilty of corruption?

Yes. No official should also be allowed to conduct business and tenders with government.

Political Party Responses to the TAC's People's Health Manifesto



e. Do you commit to annual open performance assessments of MECs and premiers?

Yes

11. Openness, transparency and freedom of expression

a. Will your party reform or repeal the Protection of State Information Bill?

Repeal. We voted against the Bill, as it is counter to a free and democratic society and does not encourage transparency and accountability by government.

b. Does your party support or oppose the establishment of a statutory media appeals tribunal?

Oppose

Political Party Responses to the TAC's People's Health Manifesto

Inkatha Freedom Party

1. The National Strategic Plan for HIV, STIs and Tuberculosis

The IFP has always been committed to finding concrete and permanent solutions to our health issues. We would support the National Strategic Plan for HIV, STIs and TB 2012 - 2016 (NSP) as long as it is fully capacitated by the government. Our role and commitment would be to hold the government accountable to the goals of the NSP while doing our part within our organization and communities to support the plan. We have been instrumental in pushing for reform in local and national government on HIV/Aids, so much so that the former premier Dr. LPHM Mtshali and TAC were taken to court by Dr. Mkhfze, the former MEC of Health, because they wanted to start making ARVs available to those who needed them.

The track record of the IFP when it comes to dealing with HIV/Aids, especially in Kwazulu-Natal, shows how committed the party has been in helping eradicate this disease, as well as STIs and TB. We would agree to new targets being set in 2016. If the government continues to meet the current targets set. If not, then we would need to re-evaluate the current targets and our people must hold government accountable for failing to improve the health care system.

a. Are you committed to meeting the targets identified in the NSP? How will you demonstrate a commitment to meeting the NSP targets?

b. When the current NSP ends in 2016 will you agree to a new set of targets to ensure 100% of people with HIV who need treatment can access it?

2. Stockouts of essential medicines

It is distressing to note that many health facilities are running out of essential medication necessary to treat diseases such as HIV/Aids and TB. Every effort must be done to end medicine stockouts and we would also support the prosecution and incarceration of people involved in selling these much needed medicines illegally, thus shortening the much needed supplies. Our people have a right to proper healthcare and the IFP support all efforts to ensure that they receive it and the D.O.T should also be encouraged to continue their good work.

a. Do you agree that preventable medicine stockouts are unlawful and a violation of health rights?

b. What concrete steps will your party take to bring an end to stockouts of essential medicines?

3. Patent law reform

The IFP is supportive of any amendments of intellectual property laws that aim to make it easier for our people to gain access to life saving medication at reasonable prices instead of paying the exorbitant prices charged by pharmaceutical companies that hold patents to medication. When the opportunity arise before the elections commence, the IFP will return to parliament to ensure that this piece of legislation is finalized.

a. Does your party support the amendment of South Africa's intellectual property laws in order to protect the right to health and to fully utilise all pro-public health flexibilities available in international law?

b. Do you commit to finalising this policy process before the 2014 elections and introducing new legislation as a priority in the next parliament?

4. District and provincial AIDS Councils

The IFP has always aimed to ensure that good governance is always part of its ethos, in our government structures, people are hired based on party affiliations and political connection and not necessary on their competence. Due to this, many leaders, on national, provincial and local levels, have failed to meet any performance-standards. The establishment and funding of Aids councils must be properly budgeted for in provincial and national levels; leaders must also be placed in positions based on their capabilities and not on who they know.

a. Will your party ensure that performance evaluations of MECs and premiers include a measure of their success or failure in budgeting for and ensuring the success of provincial and district AIDS councils?

b. What steps will you take to ensure that performance evaluations include this measure?

5. TB in prisons

In our manifesto, we call for alternative sentencing guidelines for minor offences, to reduce the number of people in our prisons. Also the current structures of our prisons needs to be relooked at and even the restructuring of the ventilation system needs to be relooked at. This will most certainly go a long way in helping reduce the number of prisoners in our already overcrowded jails.

a. What concrete steps will your party take to ensure that the problem of overcrowding in prisons is solved?

b. How will your party demonstrate political will to respect, protect, promote and fulfil the right to health in prisons?

6. Quackery

Those who are involved in selling unproven treatments, thereby giving false hope to our people, must face the full might of the law. The government must capacitate the health law enforcement unit to ensure that people do not sell illegal and dangerous drugs to our people. We must not allow these people to hamper legitimate research into alternative medication either.

The South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA)'s independence must be assured and will be supported by the IFP as long as those who lead it have proven themselves and aim to fulfill the mandate of the authority without political interference.

a. Will you commit to sufficient funding for the law enforcement unit and support speedy prosecutions of quacks?

b. What steps will your party take to guard the independence of the SAHPRA? Will you ensure that it has funding sufficient to allow it to perform its statutory functions efficiently and timeously?

7. Cervical cancer

What concrete steps will your party take to ensure that more women are screened for cervical cancer?

The IFP continually encourages all its members to be vigilant when it comes to looking after their health. Regular test must be done to ensure that people know their HIV/Aids, TB and STI statuses so as to make more informed choices concerning their health. The IFP will continue to support calls for women to be tested In order to get ahead of any cancer that may be in their bodies and to also be able to beat it.

8. HIV prevention

Does your party support the provision of both condoms and comprehensive sex education in schools?

Comprehensive sex education in schools can be provided to learners so as to help them understand sex and its implications. Many parents are uncomfortable engaging their children in conversations about sex and so as part of the curriculum, learners can ask questions freely in order to be able to protect themselves. However, the concerns of parents when it comes to the provision of condoms in schools must not be ignored, as these are their children that are being exposed to content on sex. There needs to be compromises from both sides as parents may feel alienated if things are done which excludes their input; which can strain relations between them and the schools.

9. National Health Insurance

The price of medication in South Africa is too high for the average patient to afford, and any reasonable regulation of prices can be acceptable. The introduction of the National Health Insurance (NHI) signifies the first steps in helping our people gain access to better healthcare. If the pilot projects established around the country prove to be successful, further public education and consultation will be necessary before it can be launched nationally. The IFP would be in support of it, if it have been proven to work and has government's full support, especially when it comes to hiring competent staff, which will involve improving salary packages and work environments.

a. Does your party support the introduction of National Health Insurance?

b. Does your party commit to increased public spending to improve the quality of the public health care system and to the Abuja target of spending in health being 15% of the national budget?

c. Will your party support the reasonable regulation by law of medicines prices and of private health facilities and services?

10. Accountability and co-operation

a. Do you commit to only appointing appropriately qualified and committed persons as MECs of Health?

No response

b. Will you meaningfully engage with civil society and set up Provincial Health Consultative Forums as required by the NHA?

No response

c. Do you condemn any form of intimidation and support the rights of whistle-blowers in the health service?

No response

d. Will you immediately dismiss or suspend any health official implicated, charged or found guilty of corruption?

No response

e. Do you commit to annual open performance assessments of MECs and premiers?

No response

11. Openness, transparency and freedom of expression

a. Will your party reform or repeal the Protection of State Information Bill?

No response

b. Does your party support or oppose the establishment of a statutory media appeals tribunal?

No response

Political Party Responses to the TAC's People's Health Manifesto Pan Africanist Movement

1. The National Strategic Plan for HIV, STIs and Tuberculosis

a. Are you committed to meeting the targets identified in the NSP? How will you demonstrate a commitment to meeting the NSP targets?

The National Strategic Plan although not adequate is the most scientific way of measuring the success of Government commitment to ensuring that all people that are infected access treatment continuously without interruption and are supported and counseled. PAM commits itself if elected to commission a small team of health professionals to monitor the Government's performance in meeting its commitments in the NSP.

b. When the current NSP ends in 2016 will you agree to a new set of targets to ensure 100% of people with HIV who need treatment can access it?

PAM believes that Government has the capacity to have 100% of all people who have tested positive on treatment only if an integrated approach is implemented and Home and Community Based Care Volunteers are converted to be fully paid Home Community Based Care Practitioners and are gradually professionalized.

2. Stockouts of essential medicines

a. Do you agree that preventable medicine stockouts are unlawful and a violation of health rights?

PAM position is that Government has a constitutional duty to ensure that stocking of essential medicine is the priority number one of Government to do list from 01 April of any financial year start because it is a matter of life and death. The obligation of Government is derived from the bill of rights and since South Africa is a Constitutional Democracy, the constitution overrides the intransigency of the Executive.

b. What concrete steps will your party take to bring an end to stockouts of essential medicines?

PAM will always insist that Government should prioritize stocking of essential medicine as number one task of Government and if they do not comply will work with civil society and have mass action programmes to conscientize the general public and as a last resort compel Government through court actions.

3. Patent law reform

a. Does your party support the amendment of South Africa's intellectual property laws in order to protect the right to health and to fully utilise all pro-public health flexibilities available in international law?

PAM position is that the Patent Laws should be amended to prevent the international pharmaceutical companies from making super profits at the expense of the poor and this can be achieved if these companies are given long term contracts are offered on condition that they half their prices or agree on more cheaper generic versions of these drugs, whichever will be safe and affordable for South Africa.

b. Do you commit to finalising this policy process before the 2014 elections and introducing new legislation as a priority in the next parliament?

PAM is not currently represented in Parliament, but we however are convinced that this legislation is essential so that our budget cannot be exhausted by enriching pharmaceutical companies at the expense of other competing needs of the country which might cause a tension between deserving people needing treatment and general public who expect Government to deliver on Housing, Roads, Education etc.

4. District and provincial AIDS Councils

a. Will your party ensure that performance evaluations of MECs and premiers include a measure of their success or failure in budgeting for and ensuring the success of provincial and district AIDS councils?

PAM will put pressure on the incoming Deputy President (or Presidency) who is usually assigned the task of overseeing the National Strategic Plan to ensure that it is one of the measurements of performance by the National Planning Commission.

b. What steps will you take to ensure that performance evaluations include this measure?

We will lobby the ruling party and opposition party to legislate it because our experience with Government is that the principle of cooperative government is difficult to manage the only way we think can solve these territorial battles with all levels of Government is to legislate it, so that enforcement can be demanded in case of non-compliance.

5. TB in prisons

a. What concrete steps will your party take to ensure that the problem of overcrowding in prisons is solved?

PAM does not just look at this problems from a narrow view of prisons, if by prison we mean people we have been tried and sentenced in Correctional Services Centres run by Department of Correctional Services. PAM believes most problems are found in Police Cells where rights of South African's are violated when even the South African Courts have not made a determination of the accused are guilty or innocent. PAM believes that police cells must be overhauled to comply with health standards and must work with local public health facilities to determine the health status of detainees before they are detained as they do when you are detained for drunken driving, you are first taken to a health facility and they take your blood before they detain you.

b. How will your party demonstrate political will to respect, protect, promote and fulfil the right to health in prisons?

We will lobby all parties to legislate testing all accused to do mandatory testing before being detained with other inmates and if for any reason that cannot happen should be put into single cells until it is done.

6. Quackery

a. Will you commit to sufficient funding for the law enforcement unit and support speedy prosecutions of quacks?

PAM position is that our Government is in denial that most South Africans put our Medical System as priority number 3 in their hierarchy of medical intervention. South Africans especially Black Africans first consult a Traditional Healer, will move to a Priest or Pastor if they are seriously religious before they consult the Doctor or go to the clinic. There are numerous examples like a famous Spiritual Healer from Durban who is accused of telling his followers to stop taking treatment, the same with numerous examples of Traditional Healers. PAM believes that all health practitioners whether they be conventional like Medical Doctors or traditional like traditional must be regulated to work with each other.

b. What steps will your party take to guard the independence of the SAHPRA? Will you ensure that it has funding sufficient to allow it to perform its statutory functions efficiently and timeously?

PAM puts provision of medicine as priority number one as we have said, the reason from PAM is clear that provision and regulation of medical profession is a matter of life and death and it is immoral for any government to be responsible for death of its citizens if it had the power and resources to prevent it.

7. Cervical cancer

What concrete steps will your party take to ensure that more women are screened for cervical cancer?

PAM's position is that firstly we support the pilot initiative started by current Minister of Health of vaccinating primary school children, but we believe that the programme when fully rolled out must be accessible to all young girls. PAM believes that, prevention is better than cure is always a timeless policy.

8. HIV prevention

Does your party support the provision of both condoms and comprehensive sex education in schools?

PAM's position is derived from numerous surveys on child pregnancies which show that in most cases children start being sexually active from age 12 onwards. PAM therefore supports responsible sex education and distribution of condoms to children of 12 and upwards and this should be done by properly trained individuals in collaboration with Department of Health and Education. PAM believes that this should be incorporated in the education system.

9. National Health Insurance

a. Does your party support the introduction of National Health Insurance?

PAM position believes that Health is a fundamental right of all citizens regardless of their economic standing in society. We further believe that in an emergency, a person's potential to survive the illness or heart attack, should not be determined by the fact that he/she is on medical aid, but by which nearest health facility will save him/her. PAM does not support National Health Insurance (whatever that means) and we believe that health must be the sole responsibility of the state and that private hospitals must be nationalized to serve the health needs of all citizens.

b. Does your party commit to increased public spending to improve the quality of the public health care system and to the Abuja target of spending in health being 15% of the national budget?

PAM supports the ABUJA target of spending at least 15% of National Budget but we go further and believe that 20% is a right target.

c. Will your party support the reasonable regulation by law of medicines prices and of private health facilities and services?

PAM's position is consistent as stated above that South Africa has an obligation to the poor to regulate the prices of medicine across all sectors to make sure that everyone has access to treatment.

10. Accountability and co-operation

a. Do you commit to only appointing appropriately qualified and committed persons as MECs of Health?

PAM has no control on this matter and we also have no illusions of winning the elections. PAM's experience is that the ANC is unpredictable on this matter, if the ANC wins as expected we can bet that President Zuma will still appoint people who are loyal to him as he is under siege inside and outside the ANC and it is public knowledge that he is allergic to competent people.

b. Will you meaningfully engage with civil society and set up Provincial Health Consultative Forums as required by the NHA?

PAM commits itself to engage civil society to ensure that Provincial and District Health Consultative Forums are formed to ensure that Government is accountable.

c. Do you condemn any form of intimidation and support the rights of whistle-blowers in the health service?

PAM believes that whistleblowers should be protected by our police protection system. However we believe that a transparent system of government and a vibrant civil society will make it impossible to have the mafia-like government which makes it possible to steal public money.

d. Will you immediately dismiss or suspend any health official implicated, charged or found guilty of corruption?

PAM believes that officials found guilty of corruption should be immediately suspended and if found guilty should not be allowed back into public service.

e. Do you commit to annual open performance assessments of MECs and premiers?

PAM believes that accountability will only be possible if 51% of elected members of parliament will have a power to have a vote of no confidence in the Minister or MEC. If that legislation was passed Minister of Fisheries will be out of her job and the same would have applied to Peggy Nkonyeni, Former MEC of Health in KZN. PAM believes that separation of powers must empower Parliament to remove Ministers and MEC's, whilst the President should still retain the power to appoint Ministers and Premiers to appoint MEC's.

11. Openness, transparency and freedom of expression

a. Will your party reform or repeal the Protection of State Information Bill?

PAM believes that Protection of State Information Bill should be scrapped; it is not worth the paper it written in. There is a lot of existing legislation that protects state secrets and regulates Nodal Points like Nkandla Grass Castle. The bill is the classic example of legislating abuse of power by ruling party, so that we should not question the possible appointment of the Russians in the R1 Trillion tender to build the next Nuclear Power Station besides their known horrible record at Chernobyl.

b. Does your party support or oppose the establishment of a statutory media appeals tribunal?

PAM believes that although the media is always contested, the media is our immediate hope in accessing information, if they are scared that their mistakes will end up at statutory media tribunal appointed by politicians, access to information by ordinary citizens will be compromised. PAM believes that we have a relatively transforming and relatively independent Judiciary system which will look at cases where people were deliberately defamed without a just cause and have been deliberately been defamed without being given an opportunity to clear themselves.

Political Party Responses to the TAC's People's Health Manifesto

Patriotic Alliance

1. The National Strategic Plan for HIV, STIs and Tuberculosis

a. Are you committed to meeting the targets identified in the NSP? How will you demonstrate a commitment to meeting the NSP targets?

Yes, Patriotic Alliance is heavily committed to improving healthcare in South Africa and that includes the NSP. The PA has already indicated its commitment to healthcare in its own manifesto and its plan to raise the quality of infrastructure and service for citizens will demonstrate this commitment.

b. When the current NSP ends in 2016 will you agree to a new set of targets to ensure 100% of people with HIV who need treatment can access it?

The PA will agree to any achievable target that can deliver 100% of treatment to our affected citizens. We believe the war against these diseases can be won and we will not shirk from this fight in any way.

2. Stockouts of essential medicines

a. Do you agree that preventable medicine stockouts are unlawful and a violation of health rights?

Yes of course.

b. What concrete steps will your party take to bring an end to stockouts of essential medicines?

The administration of our care centres, particularly hospitals, needs much stricter management. Budgets will need to be handled far more effectively and strong management will be able to ensure the supply of medicines. There must be accountable centres of control for this and very severe penalties against those officials who fail our people. With advance planning, no medicine need ever run out. They are playing with matters of life and death. Corruption in healthcare and the enrichment of greedy elites is nothing more than murder when the end result is a desperate patient who does not receive meds and then dies as a result.

3. Patent law reform

a. Does your party support the amendment of South Africa's intellectual property laws in order to protect the right to health and to fully utilise all pro-public health flexibilities available in international law?

Yes, these laws do need amendment. Of course a company has the right to profit from its intellectual innovations, but the profits that multinationals receive often beggar belief and are unjustifiable. Their deep pockets do, however, buy them considerable "lobbying power" in our government, which we know is often too quick to accept this money at the expense of the lives of our people. The international laws that allow South Africa to benefit from its developmental status exist: we need to unashamedly use this to help our people. The drug companies will certainly survive. Our people might not unless we do this.

b. Do you commit to finalising this policy process before the 2014 elections and introducing new legislation as a priority in the next parliament?

As the PA we can only commit to the latter as we are going to parliament, but are not there yet.

4. District and provincial AIDS Councils

a. Will your party ensure that performance evaluations of MECs and premiers include a measure of their success or failure in budgeting for and ensuring the success of provincial and district AIDS councils?

Yes of course.

b. What steps will you take to ensure that performance evaluations include this measure?

Once we have clarity on the level of power we will be able to exercise at national and provincial level, we will exercise it in all matters, not only this one, to ensure that our public servants are serving the people and not merely exploiting them for a nice salary and title.

5. TB in prisons

a. What concrete steps will your party take to ensure that the problem of overcrowding in prisons is solved?

The issue of prison overcrowding is naturally something that matters a lot to our leadership as the PA. Our leadership understands the challenges of prison life better than anyone else in this country, for obvious reasons. We simply have to move

Political Party Responses to the TAC's People's Health Manifesto

faster to process awaiting trial prisoners; it's high time we include more prisons as part of the country's infrastructure plans. Prisoners themselves can help to build these prisons as part of gaining skills and experience.

b. How will your party demonstrate political will to respect, protect, promote and fulfil the right to health in prisons?

The history of our top leaders' stance on prisons (including a book our president wrote) should make it clear to anyone that he understands what needs to happen in prisons to not only improve health, but fight crime in general and turn prisons into places of rehabilitation and hope instead of dumping grounds for our youth, from which they only emerge as more heavily criminalised.

6. Quackery

a. Will you commit to sufficient funding for the law enforcement unit and support speedy prosecutions of quacks?

Yes

b. What steps will your party take to guard the independence of the SAHPRA? Will you ensure that it has funding sufficient to allow it to perform its statutory functions efficiently and timeously?

We will indeed support prosecution for this serious class of crimes.

7. Cervical cancer

What concrete steps will your party take to ensure that more women are screened for cervical cancer?

We have already committed to more and better-serviced mobile clinics. This screening can be proposed as a standard test when any woman is given a checkup.

8. HIV prevention

Does your party support the provision of both condoms and comprehensive sex education in schools?

Yes.

9. National Health Insurance

a. Does your party support the introduction of National Health Insurance?

Not as it is currently proposed, no, but there are many aspects of the NHI that we would wholeheartedly support. Public patients must ultimately be guaranteed the same or similar service as private patients and we will not rest until this noble goal is achieved.

b. Does your party commit to increased public spending to improve the quality of the public health care system and to the Abuja target of spending in health being 15% of the national budget?

In principle, yes.

c. Will your party support the reasonable regulation by law of medicines prices and of private health facilities and services?

Yes, as long as this is carefully managed in such a way that it does not lead to the long-term detriment of the health industry.

10. Accountability and co-operation

a. Do you commit to only appointing appropriately qualified and committed persons as MECs of Health?

Yes, most definitely.

b. Will you meaningfully engage with civil society and set up Provincial Health Consultative Forums as required by the NHA?

Yes

c. Do you condemn any form of intimidation and support the rights of whistle-blowers in the health service?

Yes

d. Will you immediately dismiss or suspend any health official implicated, charged or found guilty of corruption?

Yes. We will also prosecute them.

Political Party Responses to the TAC's People's Health Manifesto



e. Do you commit to annual open performance assessments of MECs and premiers?

Yes

11. Openness, transparency and freedom of expression

a. Will your party reform or repeal the Protection of State Information Bill?

We want to see it reformed.

b. Does your party support or oppose the establishment of a statutory media appeals tribunal?

We oppose such a tribunal.

United Democratic Movement

Provided a general comment:

UDM Government commits itself to improve the Health Care System in this country. We would achieve that by working closer with institution like yours. That relationship will not just take place before elections but continuous throughout. For more go to our Manifesto and UDM policies @www.udm.org.za. Finally, inefficient mechanisms in the current system deprives patients, especially those in a critical state or in emergency, from being treated timeously and/or referred to institutions that are able to deal with their needs. At the moment patients are forced to wait hours and sit in long queues before they are assisted by staff that have a dismissive attitude towards their fellow humans in need.

Bantu Holomisa, MP

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