

Let's Communicate



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National Commissioner Zach Modise and Free State and Northern Cape Regional Commissioner Subashini Moodley pose for a photo with officials and stakeholders.

DCS Health Partners Conference assesses milestones

By Refilwe Tshukudu and Thulani Mdluli

The National Commissioner Zach Modise has lauded officials and the department's health care partners for the milestones achieved in treating HIV/AIDS and TB.

He was speaking at the DCS Health Partners Conference held at Vanderbijlpark from Tuesday, 19 April to Thursday, 21 April. The conference was convened by the Right to Care and attended by officials from KwaZulu-Natal and Free State and Northern Cape regions. Other partners that participated in the conference were the Department of Health and TB/HIV Care (Non-Governmental Organisation). The partnership between the department and other role players to roll out TB and HIV/AIDS treatment, nutritional and hygiene services at correctional centres is currently being implemented in KwaZulu-Natal and Free State and

Northern Cape regions.

Addressing the Conference, Mr Modise said a lot has been achieved since the partnership was established in 2014. The achievements are, among others, a high number of inmates screened on admission, increased number of peer educators for TB/HIV awareness, increased number of TB tracer teams for locating released patients who have stopped treatment and staff development. He said officials should not hinder the partners from helping the department by denying them access to the correctional centres. He referred to an incident where the Right to Care officials were denied access to a correctional centre during Opera-

tion Vala. He also said the Health Care officials such as pharmacists and nurses should get resources such as laptops to enable them to function effectively.

Despite the achievements already recorded, the conference discussed issues that remain a challenge, such as inmates who are untraceable after release. This is mainly caused by offenders who give wrong personal details when they enrol for treatment. Mr Modise said this problem shows the need for a biometrics system of recording personal details. The Department of Health promised to provide health care to released inmates in the communities from which they come so that they do not stop treatment once they are released.



National Commissioner Zach Modise opened the DCS Health Partners Conference.



correctional services

Department:
Correctional Services
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA