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Office Of The Premier PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

As part of a countdown to the 21st International Aids Conference, KwaZulu-Natal Premier Senzo mchunu will this evening meet Mr Chris Beyrer, the President of the International AIDS Society (IAS) and a delegation from Geneva. This is the world's leading independent association of professionals involved in the fight against HIV. It boasts 16 000 members in 170 countries.

IAS is the custodian of the biennial International AIDS Conference and holds the secretariat on behalf of partners. It is organizing AIDS 2016 which is scheduled to take place at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre in July. Additionally, the IAS provides the largest international HIV conference scholarship Programme, to ensure those living with and affected by the disease are well-represented at the gathering.

"We are gearing ourselves up for this historic conference. My meeting with IAS president presents an opportunity for us to iron out a few loose ends."

"We promise to host the most successful ever conference giving delegates the opportunity to shape efforts that will strengthen a global fight against this pandemic."

"This is the most important conference given the fact that it coincide with the Madiba's birthday. The conference provides an opportunity to tell the world about our success in the fight against HIV and AIDS. Importantly, the conference provides a platform for all of us to strengthen our efforts in the fight against this scourge."

"The presence of international delegates will enable us to learn best practices and enhance our strategies in order to make an impact at local levels. As the province we want to emerge out of the conference with strategies that will ensure an improvement in the AIDS awareness campaigns as well as health promotion activities."

Media is invited to attend: Date: 13 April 2016 Venue: Hilton Hotel Time: 18h00 to 20h00

Ends Issued by the Office of the Premier Enquiries Ndabezinhle Sibiya: Spokesperson for the Premier 082 3754742