

CHIEF DIRECTORATE:

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Invitation to attend a media and private sector breakfast meeting hosted by the Premier of Kwa-Zulu Natal, Honourable Senzo Mchunu, and the AIDS 2016 Local Office in Durban

Dear Media Partner

We are honored to extend a special invitation to you to attend a media and private sector breakfast meeting on Thursday, 03 September 2015 from 7:30am until 10:00am at the Durban ICC.

The 21<sup>st</sup> International AIDS Conference ("AIDS 2016"), to be held on 17- 22 July 2016 in Durban with an expected attendance of 20,000+ delegates, will provide a unique forum for the intersection of science and advocacy in HIV/AIDS, and an opportunity to strengthen policies and programmes to ensure an evidence-based response to the epidemic. Occurring at the dawn of the global push to end the epidemic in the post-2015 era, the conference offers an opportunity to bring together all key factors – biomedical and implementation science, politics, activism and industry – and will determine whether the world effectively leverages this unique opportunity to advance toward ending AIDS. South Africa demonstrates the feasibility of rapid progress against AIDS through strong political leadership, evidence-based action, a rights-based approach and community leadership and engagement. Translating what has worked in this region to others is vital to reducing new HIV infections and AIDS morbidity and mortality worldwide.

The breakfast event will bring together media and private sector companies operating in KZN to be provided details on the objectives of AIDS 2016, an update on the status of preparations, and an introduction to the different ways to become involved. Both media and business are important stakeholders in making sure that the communities within the province are not left behind as AIDS is a cross cutting issue affecting all people in different ways. The Premier of KZN in his capacity as the Chairman of the Provincial AIDS Council will give the keynote address.

It would be a privilege to welcome you to this event. We kindly ask your confirmation by midday, Wednesday 2 September 2015.

For further information about this invitation and to register your participation, please contact Nirupa Kasserchun, AIDs 2016 Resource Mobilization and Development Officer, at <u>nirupa.kasserchun@aids2016.org</u> or by telephone on 031 305 0050 or Sonto Mayise at <u>sonto@zulu.org.za</u> or by telephone on 082 573 7349.

Sincerely,

Head of Local Office AIDS 2016 Working Together for Secure and Prosperous Future.