



World TB day is commemorated annually on the 24 March to raise public awareness on the health and socio-economic consequences of tuberculosis. The global theme for this year is "Invest to End TB, Save Lives". The theme encourages countries to invest resources to strengthen the fight against TB and achieve global commitments. Sustainable Development Goal 3 include a target to end TB epidemic by the year 2030.

South Africa has aligned itself with this call and will be commemorating World TB Day in Francis Baard District in the Northern Cape under theme "Invest in Action to End TB Now, Get Screened, End Stigma, Save Lives" on the 24 March 2022. The event will be held at Vaal Rivier High School from 09h30 to 13h30.

The event will be graced by the deputy President of the Republic of South Africa in his capacity as the Chairperson of the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC), HE, David Mabuza, the SANAC Co-Chairperson, Ms Steve Letsike, the Minister of Health, Dr Joe Phaahla and the Northern Cape Premier, Dr Zamani Saul.

SALGA through the Provincial Executive Committee Chairperson in the Northern Cape will deliver the message of support during the commemoration.

The 2019 World Health Organisation (WHO) global Tuberculosis report, TB remains the world's deadliest infectious diseases with an estimated 10 million people falling ill with TB in 2018. According

to this report, since 2007, TB has been the leading cause of death ranking above HIV/AIDS. South Africa is ranked amongst the 30 high TB burden countries in 2018 globally.

According to the 2018 Statistics South Africa report on the Mortality and Causes of Death in South Africa: findings from death notification 2018, tuberculosis (TB) was identified as the leading cause of death for the three-year period (2016-2018) amongst the top-ten leading underlying natural causes of deaths in 2018.

This proportion of deaths due to TB declined in the three-year period from 6,5% in 2016 to 6,0% in 2018. According to the Centre of Disease Control, Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by a bacterium called Mycobacterium tuberculosis. The bacteria usually attack the lungs, but TB bacteria can attack any part of the body such as the kidney, spine, and brain. TB as a disease is preventable and curable.

Sources

Centre for Disease Control. Basic TB Facts <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/basics/default.htm>

World Health Organisation (2019). Global Tuberculosis Report. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241565714>

Statistics South Africa (2018). Mortality and Causes of death in South Africa: findings from death notification. South Africa: Pretoria.