

OPEN LETTER:

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH, DR JOE PHAAHLA AND THE PREMIER OF GAUTENG, DAVID MAKHURA
JUNE 21, 2022**

We, health professionals and healthcare workers, academics, medical scientists and researchers, veteran healthcare activists and representatives of civil society concerned with and about the condition of public healthcare services hereby declare that,

1. The irrefutable deterioration of the public healthcare service, the principal agency that underpins the constitutional entitlement of access to all necessary care, is a gross violation of the rights of all who live in South Africa and is an unconscionable assault on the well-being of patients attending public health facilities.
2. Conditions of service that prohibit health personnel from speaking publicly on these deficiencies are reminiscent of Apartheid-era practices to stifle rightful dissent and public disclosure and are contrary to the constitutional order.
3. Victimization of healthcare professionals who expose the profound administrative deficiencies plaguing public health facilities is accelerating the outward migration of health professionals who can no longer endure the moral injury caused by working in conditions that violates their ethical obligations.
4. We stand foursquare behind healthcare workers subjected to unfair disciplinary sanction for publicly disclosing intolerable conditions at most provincial health facilities.

We, therefore, demand the following.

1. The immediate and unequivocal cessation of all disciplinary action against Dr Tim de Maayer and his colleagues and the institution of an independent inquiry into the related conduct of the relevant provincial officials and the CEO of the Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital.
2. The establishment of a standing Public Health Administration Review Commission to reconfigure the structure and operation of provincial health departments, including,
 - the devolution of authority to independent, skilled and capable hospital boards accountable in the first instance to the facility and its staff, patients and communities and reporting to the Provincial Legislature on a regulated basis.
 - the appointment of CEOs with operational and financial management skills by these duly constituted boards, in conjunction with the joint staff protocols of relevant academic medical faculties and the provincial administration.

We wish it to be known that we will actively oppose victimisation of healthcare workers and do all we can to protect their right to expose administrative actions that negatively affect their ability to comply with their ethical responsibilities.

For the removal of any doubt, the list of signatories to this letter should provide you with confidence that the matters canvassed in this letter should be taken up as a matter of great urgency, because every minute longer that this untenable situation obtains may be measured in lives lost.

This is who we are:

I am Lufuno Rudo wa Mathivha
I am Aslam Dasoo
I am Lance Lasersohn
I am Angelique Coetzee
I am Guy Richards
I am Ames Dhai
I am Glenda Gray
I am James McIntyre
I am Yasmin Adam
I am Akhtar Hussain
I am Fazel Randera
I am Susan Goldstein
I am Malefetsane Ngatane
I am Selma Browde
I am Mashudu wa ha Nethononda
I am Morgan Chetty
I am Gill Eagle
I am Nkaki Sydwell Matlala
I am Guni Goolab
I am Paul Davis
I am Mike Sathekge
I am Jane Simmonds
I am John Gear
I am Masilo wa Marumo
I am Terence Carter
I am Alistair Calver
I am Adam Pyle
I am Elijah Nkosi
I am Mark Human
I am Ebrahim Variava
I am Alex van den Heever
I am Ramesh Bhoola
I am Hannetjie Ferreira
I'm Thami Mngoma
I am Carol Marshall
I am Priya Soma-Pillay
I am Beth Engelbrecht
I am Richard Tuft
I'm Lekgolo Moloto
I am Angela Mathee
I am Lucille Blumberg
I am Jeremy Nel
I am Tanya Cohen
I am Ernest Darkoh
I am Wendy Vogel
I am Adrienne Wulfsohn
I am Marian Jacobs

I am Shabir Madhi
I am Tony Lachman
I am Helen Schneider
I am Paul Ruff
I am Andy Gray
I am Ashraf Coovadia
I am Lerato Mosiah
I am Francois Venter
I am Greg van Wyk
I am Yogan Pillay
I am Mark Sonderup
I am Ian Sanne
I am Vishal Brijlal
I am Gareth Kantor
I am Sue Fawcus
I am Sally Mudry Padayachee
I am Nkateko Munisi
I am Ilana Edelstein
I am Sagie Pillay
I am Cecil Manitshana
I am Ashraf Grimwood
I am Binu Luke
I am Lauren Fok
I am Shereen Usdin
I am Monica Springfield
I am Wendy Stevens
I am Helen Rees
I am Shabir Banoo
I am Max Price
I am Zaheer Laher
I am Adams Tongman
I am Bada Pharasi
I am Haroon Saloojee
I am Daphney Nozizwe Conco
Ke Mabatho Ntombi Mutshekwane
I am Amanda Gcabashe
I am Pete Wharton-Hood
I am Mahomed Faruk Mahomed
I am Malikah Van Der Schyff
I am Simon Strachan
I am Sham Moodley
I am Russell Rensburg
I am Eric Buch
I am Girish Modi
I am Wendy Ovens

I am Neil Nair
I am Saths Cooper
I am Lionel Green-Thompson
I am Judy Dlamini
I am David Sekete
I am Mzukisi Grootboom
I am Biren Valodia
I am Edward Ngwenya
I am Tom Boyles
I am Gary Reubenson
I am Valerie Mizrahi
I am Safiyya Randera-Rees
I am Goolam Aboobaker
I am Linda-Gail Bekker
I am Malebona Matsoso
I am Bobby Ramasia
I am Kgosi Letlape
I am Gail Andrews
I am Evan Shoul
I am Refiloe Masekela
I am Jens Pedersen
I am Martin Veller
I am Hendrik Hanekom
I am Barry Kistnasamy
I am David Motau
I am Shakti Pillay
I am Siven Maslamoney
I am Sibongile Tshabalala
I am Sasha Stevenson
I am Adam Mohammed
I am Stavros Nicolaou
I am Dumisani Bomela
I am Errol Anthony Holland
I am Katlego Mothudi
I am Fareed Abdullah
I am Jacob Poo
I am Bavesh Kana
I am Trish Hanekom
I am Peggy Kensani Serote
I am Lalitha Ramiah
I am Michelle Maserow
I am Tumi Semete
I am Koert Pretorius
I am Ameena Goga
I am Sheila Barseil