



TOBEKA MADIBA ZUMA  
FOUNDATION

## **MADAM TOBEKA MADIBA ZUMA ENGAGES WITH THE YOUTH OF SOUTH AFRICA AT THE DELEBERATIONS DURING THE HIGHER EDUCATION AIDS YOUTH CONFERENCE**

DURBAN, 13 JUNE 2017—First Lady Tobeka Madiba Zuma engages with the Youth of South Africa at the HEAIDS Conference which was held at the Durban ICC from 9-11 June 2017. The very first three day HEAIDS National Youth Conference was held at the Durban ICC over from 9-11 June 2017.

Over 4000 young people from all over South Africa's 26 Universities, 50 TVET colleges and out of school youth attended this historic event and they were encouraged to challenge their leaders. Several Ministers, senior government officials, health professionals, scientists and academics were in attendance with the specific mandate to not only share their knowledge and experience but to listen to the youth of South Africa about the multiple social factors that increase their vulnerabilities and perpetuate HIV/AIDS. The young delegates at the HEAIDS conference consolidated their main objectives in a declaration that was presented to Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, Minister of Health, Mr. Mduzuzi Manana, Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training and Mr. Buti Manamela, Deputy Minister in the Presidency responsible for Youth. Ms. Andile Mthombeni, HEAIDS conference co- chairperson emphasized that these pledges should be monitored closely to ensure implementation saying "we as the youth need to hold our policy makers accountable".

In calling on Government in Partnership with the Private Sector to invest in and increase access to education for Youth. Madam Tobeka Madiba Zuma shared the views of the TMZ Foundation with the main recommendation being "to enforce laws that protect our children, youth and women. Violations against girls should be more severely punished, whilst also promoting gender positive media messages. We need media campaigns that raise awareness about the rights of our youth, more especially girls, and also to broadcast positive images of girls and women, not portraying them as commercial commodities", said the first lady and patron of founder of the Tobeka Madiba Zuma Foundation during her speech delivered during the welcome reception at the HEAIDS conference over the past weekend.

Furthermore, Madam Tobeka Madiba Zuma shared that the objectives of the TMZ Foundation urge that all relevant stakeholders and partners should roll out training programs that build the capacity of parents, teachers, social workers, and other community members. Support youth organizations and networks to implement peer-to-peer and non-formal education. Organize skill- and confidence- building workshops where our youth gain skills and knowledge that will boost their confidence and increase their opportunities for economic advancement. Amend certain cultural practices and traditions through media and advocacy campaigns. "We strongly believe that children and youth have strong opinions on how they want to shape their own future. We need to start in the homes, at schools, and in our communities by openly acknowledging and taking resolute action to address structural inequalities, harmful gender norms, and gender based violence which are both a cause and consequences of HIV.

Our country needs to invest in and safeguard the education and social status of our young women, using innovative and comprehensive approaches that build their knowledge, confidence and resilience, so as to help them make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health. It is well known



TOBEKA MADIBA ZUMA  
FOUNDATION

that sexual and reproductive ill health and HIV share root causes, including poverty, limited access to appropriate information, gender inequalities including gender based violence, cultural norms and social marginalization of the most vulnerable populations”, said Madam Tobeka Madiba Zuma passionately.

The Tobeka Madiba Zuma Foundation currently runs their Listen to the Girl Child Campaign which operates in the remote South Africa, specifically targeting the communities which have been identified as underdeveloped, where there is a large percentage of youth, especially young girls. This campaign targets communities with the largest majority of girls and women who face enormous challenges ranging from violence and abuse, economic power to exercise their right and choices due to lack of access to economic resources, guidance and mentorship, sense of belonging, lack of access to education on matters pertaining to sexual and reproductive health, poor parenting. The Listen to the Girl Child Project targets the community at large to build awareness of HIV, encouraging testing, and helping with livelihoods amelioration.

#### **The Tobeka Madiba Zuma Foundation**

The Tobeka Madiba Zuma Foundation, which was conceptualized in 2009 and started operating in 2010, provides a novel approach to humanitarian outreach as envisioned by the First Lady of South Africa, Madam Tobeka Madiba Zuma. Madam Zuma is passionate about the plight of the impoverished and it is her vision to lend a helping hand to those in need, in order to support the government in meeting its objectives towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Media Contact: Laila Saada | [Laila.saada@tmzfoundation.co.za](mailto:Laila.saada@tmzfoundation.co.za) | 0834136296/  
Mbalenhle Sindane | [tmzfas9@tmzfoundation.co.za](mailto:tmzfas9@tmzfoundation.co.za) | 0824360976