



## Public Health Association of South Africa

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27 June 2012

Dr Aaron Motsoaledi  
The Honourable Minister of Health  
Republic of South Africa

**For attention: Director-General**  
**Director: Health Promotion**

### **SUPPORT FOR NEW REGULATIONS REGARDING SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES AND CERTAIN OUTDOOR PLACES (R264): PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA (PHASA)**

The Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) wishes to applaud the Minister of Health and the Department of Health for the bold regulations on smoke-free public places. We look forward to the implementation of the new regulations which will ensure that all buildings in South Africa will become 100% smoke-free and that smoking is prohibited in some outdoor areas. The new regulations demonstrate a renewed commitment to the health and wellbeing of all South Africans and have PHASA's unequivocal support, for several reasons:

1. The current regulations on smoke-free environments have not been stringent and have resulted in unnecessary exposure of non-smokers to tobacco smoke. We believe that the proposed regulations, which will completely prohibit smoking indoors and in public venues including sports stadiums, schools and health facilities, will go a long way in alleviating this problem.
2. The proposed regulations support the vision and mission of PHASA, which is to promote greater health equity, impact positively on population health outcomes, and improve the functioning and effectiveness of the health system. PHASA is a voluntary professional organisation that brings together researchers, professionals and practitioners working in the disciplines of public health in South Africa. We believe these new laws are progressive and reflect a nation that is sensitive to needs of its population. The new regulations will ensure that South African citizens have equal protection from unnecessary exposure to tobacco smoke therefore reducing the risks of tobacco-related diseases.
3. The regulations are borne out by the findings of a recent pilot study conducted by PHASA at a District Hospital in Gauteng, where the majority of patients and health professionals that participated in the study were in support of smoke-free hospitals.

PHASA supports the proposed amendments to the current Tobacco Products Control Act (83/1993): *Regulations relating to smoking in public places and certain outdoor public places* (Gazette No. 35198 – Regulation 264) and wish to thank you once again for your leadership in developing these regulations.

Yours sincerely



**Professor Laetitia Rispel**  
**PHASA President**

On behalf of the Executive Committee members:

1. Dr Flavia Senkubuge, School of Public Health, University of Pretoria
2. Dr Stephen Knight, School of Public Health, University of KwaZulu Natal
3. Professor Thandi Puoane, School of Public Health, University of the Western Cape
4. Dr Annette Gerritsen, Epidemiology consultant at Epi Result
5. Dr Waasila Jassat: Health Systems Trust
6. Dr Tladi Ledibane: University of Free State School of Public Health
7. Dr Tracey Naledi: Western Cape Department of Health
8. Dr Julia Moorman: Wits School of Public Health
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