

Fourth State of TB in SA report focuses on testing

The TB Accountability Consortium has released its 2025 State of TB in SA report as the National Department of Health launches its ambitious campaign to test 5 million people for TB this year.

Titled *From crisis to opportunity: accelerating testing to end TB*, the report interrogates this ambitious plan and flags some of the major issues on this path. It calls for improved oversight of month to month TB data through a public-facing TB data dashboard and increased funding for TB in the District Health Programme Grant to ensure national coordination and improved provincial and programme performance.

World TB Day 2025 means that South Africa now only has 10 years to meet the first set of goals set by the World Health Organisation in its End TB strategy. This includes increasing its treatment coverage rate by 13% by getting more than 60 000 missing patients onto treatment and reducing TB deaths by 46 000 for the year. The campaign is closely tied to the



National Department of Health's HIV Close the Gap campaign which plans to find an additional 1.1 million people with HIV and initiate them onto treatment.

DOWNLOAD THE REPORT HERE

Also in this edition:

- How South Africa marked World TB Day
- TBAC goes to Parliament
- Getting government to listen to SA's TB advocates
- Be part of our Sitshele campaign

TB advocates mark World TB Day across the country

This year World TB Day was commemorated under the theme Commit. Invest. Deliver! Advocates gathered across the country to mark this important day. Here's how different provinces marked the day...

... in Gauteng

The Harmony Gold Kusasalethu Mine saw hundreds of TB advocates gather on March 27. Delegates focused on the urgent need for accelerated TB testing, particularly in the mining sector. According to the TB in the Mining Sector in Southern Africa (TIMS) report, the sector remains highly vulnerable, with estimated 89% of South Africa's mineworkers having latent TB infection, showing no symptoms.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



Poppy Dubazana, Katlego Rasebitse and TBAC's Sihle Mahonga-Ndawonde at the mine.



Noloyiso Ntamehlo, Thokozile Mtsolongo, Linda Marhewu and TBAC's Zimbini Madikiza in Ndumangeni Village.

... in the Eastern Cape

World TB Day in the Eastern Cape was observed at Ndumangeni Village in Amahlathi Local Municipality, also on March 27.

The event was marked by strong community involvement with both local residents attending and a community outreach programme in place. Mobile clinics provided essential health services, including the immunisation of schoolchildren, TB and HIV screenings, and general health evaluations.

... and in the Western Cape

In Cape Town the TB spotlight was on Florida Park in Ravensmead on March 25 for commemorations. It was supported by multiple civil society organisations including WC CSF TB Forum and TB Proof. The day included a 5000 step walk with community members, Dept of Health and Wellness Staff and the WC CSF TB Champions. The province's MEC for Health, Chief Director Dr Juanita Arendse addressed the crowd while TB champions shared their lived experiences of TB encouraging people to go and get tested for TB. Find more pictures and details on our [site](#).



TBAC's provincial officer, Rene Sparks, with the Western Cape MEC for Health, Mireille Wenger.

#LALELA: It's time for the government to listen to us

A big part of the work that TBAC does is ensuring political and financial accountability around TB. We hope to get policymakers to think about TB in their decision-making and in how funds are allocated and spent.

This is why, in February, before President Cyril Ramaphosa delivered his State Of the Nation Address and then later when Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana was about to table his annual budget vote, TBAC launched the **#LALELA** campaign. The idea behind the campaign was to

help the president identify TB as a national health emergency and then to give the finance minister tips on how to include TB in his budget vote.

We used the stories of ordinary people in South Africa to help these policymakers understand the need around TB.

As the year continues the **#LALELA** campaign will continue to call on the government to invest more resources into TB to ensure that the National Strategic Plan for 2023–2028, is TB implemented correctly. Keep an eye out.



**MEET
MABUSI
KGWETE, 46**

Keen to see our #LALELA campaign?

*Meet Mabusi Kgwete. She is just one of the faces of the **#LALELA** campaign.*

As part of TBAC's advocacy to the National Treasury we told Kgwete's story of her journey with extra-pulmonary TB.

*Watch Kgwete's **#LALELA** story [here](#).*

TBAC takes its fight to Parliament again

After the 2025 Budget Speech was delivered by Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana on 12 March 2025, the consortium presented to the Standing Committee on Appropriations on the Division of Revenue Bill. The briefing was intended to help the committee understand the challenges around TB in SA and what the state of TB is in the country.

It called for better oversight on how TB funds have been spent in the provinces. And for further detail on how the SA government would fill the gap caused by the withdrawal of US government funding. According to number crunching done by the Rural Health Advocacy



Project, the R448 billion in funding covered 15,000 health workers.

Several other organisations also presented during the session including the Budget Justice Coalition.

[ACCESS THE PRESENTATION HERE](#)

SITSHELE- TELL US YOUR STORY

In 2024 TBAC launched its national #SITSHELE campaign asking people to tell us their TB stories by sharing how TB has affected them and their families.

The aim of the campaign was to collate enough stories to share them with the government to show how many people TB actually has an impact on.

Additionally, it hoped to show the government why TB needs to be considered a national health emergency. After getting all your TB stories, this year we continue the Sitshele campaign again.

But this time round the campaign focuses on testing. We are encouraging people to tell us their stories on how they were tested for TB and what happened during the experience – or why they've avoided being tested and why.

The good news stories will help to destigmatise TB, and get the groups of people who have a high risk of contracting TB to get tested and get on treatment.

The stories where people experience challenges will help us zone in on the problem areas and help us keep government to account.

Research shows that testing leads to



Mankosi village resident, Nomfanelo Sogqwaba, shared her TB story on the Sitshele

early detection and treatment which results in lower levels of transmission. And with the government's plan of testing 5 million people for TB this year, every bit of motivation will help encourage people to get tested for TB.

So share your TB testing story on our TB wall, including the success and challenges you faced.

Share your TB story, by scanning this QR code and telling us your TB experience.



Reach out to us - share your thoughts

At TBAC, we would love to hear from you. Tell us what you thought of our 2025 State of TB in SA report or share your ideas on TB initiatives that we should cover.

Continue the conversation by visiting our social media platforms or dropping us an email.

And if you want this newsletter again, sign up by sending us an email to info@tbac.org.za

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