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AFRICA NATIONAL CONGRESS (S.A.)

BASIC HEALTH POLICY GUIDELINES

Preamble

Health care service under apartheid are totally unaccountable racist undemocratic, predominantly curative oriented, hospital based and urban-biased. They therefore cannot equitably meet the health needs of the entire population. Diseases which were the scourge of 19th Century Europe are to this day still rampant amongst the black population. A precondition for the introduction of a democratic health care system lies with the eradication of the apartheid system, including an overhaul of the entire health system, in order to render it comprehensive and of meaningful service to the entire population of our country.

THE PLACE AND ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The Department of Health is part of the overall structures of the African National Congress, through which health strategies for the well-being of our people shall be initiated and implemented. In the discharge of the ANC Health strategies, the Department of Health shall always endeavour to

- provide the highest and humane standard of health care possible to the membership of our movement.
- train health workers committed to the service of our National Liberation Struggle, and in the phase of national reconstruction and development. In this regard political and ideological training shall be a component part of training for health workers. Health workers shall be accountable individually and collectively to the community and shall adhere to professional ethics.
- involve and integrate itself with the progressive health struggles both inside South Africa and internationally.
- mobilise political and material support for our movement.
- isolate South Africa from all international health forums.

The Department of Health shall have the final word in all health and health related matters,

HEALTH POLICY GUIDELINES

The ANC Health Policy Guidelines shall reflect the content of the policy of the ANC as enshrined in the Freedom Charter, with particular emphasis on Primary health Care strategies, which guarantee the attainment of health for all. Furthermore, primary health care shall go hand-in-hand with other nationwide developmental programmes that seek to minimise the disparities in the living standards and conditions of our people. The application of the primary health care strategies shall at all times ensure the following measures:

PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE WHICH SHALL PROVIDE FOR:

- maternal child health care services
- expanded programme on immunisation
- nurseries and crèches near the work place
- encourage breast feeding
- protective clothing and measures for the workers

PROMOTIVE HEALTH CARE REORGANISED TOWARDS

- change of habits to promote healthy life-style
- national research on all socio-cultural and economic factors influencing health
- utilisation of wastes for production of biogas
- providing adequate and safe supply of drinking water, good housing, lighting, playing fields and social recreation centres
- improving environmental hygiene and sanitation
- land reclamation, water, soil and forest conservation
- proper disposal of air, water and chemical and nuclear waste.

CURATIVE HEALTH TO ENSURE:

- a high standard of health care for all
- standardisation of treatment

- provision of a nationwide list of essential drugs in order to prohibit the proliferation and distribution of dangerous drugs and drugs of doubtful efficacy
- systematic acquisition and distribution of medical supplies on an equitable basis
- national research with the aim of discarding harmful practices and integrating traditional healers and birth attendants into the national health service.

REHABILITATIVE HEALTH CARE ENCOMPASSING:

- child psychology and survival, to guarantee proper counselling and support in the field of child growth and development
- provision of services for the pensioned and the aged
- comprehensive and community-based community^{mental} health care
- acquisition of expertise in surgical techniques, mechanical aids to minimise the degree of disability.

HEALTH EDUCATION ORIENTED AROUND:

- the home, work places, institutions - from cognitive ages to literacy and adult education programmes
- teaching personal hygiene and public health, nutrition, first aid and civil defence
- popularising health care
- dissemination of information on health matters
- mobilising the membership around health issues.

INTERSECTORAL AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO HEALTH TO ENSURE:

- sharing of information on health at all levels of the department and other sectors of the movement
- identification of assistance in the health field by all other sectors of the movement
- planning, implementation, supervision and evaluation of all health programmes at all levels of the department.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION BASED ON EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DATA THAT WILL:

- strengthen community-based programmes through campaigns led by task forces and brigades
- identify health programmes necessary for self reliance
- allow for a flexible approach by the community in determining health priorities for implementation
- encourage initiatives and strengthen community involvement and commitment.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION TO FACILITATE:

- good working relationships with other progressive health workers, organisations and countries
- utilisation of experience and expertise of other progressive health workers in the field of health
- international mobilisation for political and material support.

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