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ANC HEALTH POLICY \_

For people to be healthy, they need to earn enough money to be able to live decent lives. They need decent housing, enough safe water, and enough good food. People need to work in safe places and to be free of waste (like rubbish) that can harm them. Health is also improved if people have education, and time for rest and recreation.

People also need a health service that encourages them to live healthy lives, that prevents illness and that offers care for the ill and disabled.

We believe that health care is a basic human right. This right should be written in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. At present, the health services are controlled by a great many departments. This makes it impossible to plan good health care. The government spends less and less money on health each year, which means that the quality of health care is suffering. People who get good treatment are those who can pay. The health services treat disease instead of teaching people to prevent it by living healthily.

Our health policy is based on primary health care. Primary health care makes sure that everybody gets good health care, no matter where they live or how rich or poor they are. It also means that health care is seen as part of other parts of modern life, like housing and education. Finally, it means that communities are part of all health care. These are the goals of the ANC's health policy.

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We want one National Health Service that serves the whole country. The National Health Service will encourage communities to take part in planning, providing and controlling the health services. Regions and districts will make decisions about health care, as well as the central government.

It is very important to give good health care to people living in rural places. The health care services must be near people's homes and they must be affordable. (???? is this right, Or will We will also pay special attention to the health of mothers, children, the old, workers, the unemployed, the mentally ill and the disabled.

All health workers will encourage good health and healthy living. The health service will work with other departments to make sure that people live and work in healthy conditions. This includes working with those responsible for water, fuel, food, farming, and sanitation (such as rubbish removal).

The government will not have all the money it needs for good

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health services. Therefore, those who can afford to pay, will be taxed or will give money to a national health or social insurance fund. ,

Essential health care will be free.

We would like to work together with health workers in private practice, and private hospitals and clinics so that we all share the same goal of improving the health of the nation.

At present there are many parts of the health service where there is not enough medicine in store. At the same time, too much money is spent on medicines in the private sector. The ANC will have a drug policy to deal with these problems.

All health workers will have the right to join trade unions of their choice.

Health workers who train at tertiary level (for example, medical school) will have to work in public health for a certain time.

There will be affirmative action to make sure that more blacks and women are trained as doctors or hospital managers.

The National Health Service will pay special attention to the care of people who are the victims of sexual violence, such as rape. i

The ANC will pay special attention to AIDS education and the treatment of AIDS victims.