



Day 1

**South Africa**

## **SPORTS TOURNAMENT AND HIV/AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAMME**

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The South African Teams plans to organise a sports tournament and include HIV/AIDS programmes in the tournament programme. In this way they want to involve young people into this important to make them aware of the disease and how they can avoid to get infected.



## AIDS AND SOUTH AFRICA

21.5% of the adult South African population have been estimated to be HIV positive in 2004. The government has recently, after much delay, devoted substantial resources to fighting the epidemic. A recent study from the African Journal of AIDS Research by Thomas Rehle and Olive Shisana showed the infection rate starting to level off, from 4.2% to 1.7% infection rate for 15-49 year olds, and AIDS deaths peaking at 487,320 in 2008.

In 2000 President Mbeki publicly questioned the importance of HIV in causing AIDS, controversially suggesting that the main cause

was "poverty".

In 2001 the government appointed a panel of scientists, including a number of AIDS dissidents



(who question the mainstream view on HIV), to report back on the issue. Following their report, the government stated that it continues to base its policy on the premise that the cause of AIDS is indeed HIV.

The controversy has not abated, and organisations such as the Joint Education Project try to inform the South African population and especially the “young generation” about the risks of AIDS.

