



THE SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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**THE CHAIRPERSON
SAMA BRANCH / SAMA STANDING COMMITTEE / SAMA MEMBERS**

Dear Doctor

CALL FOR PRACTICAL INVOLVEMENT IN DEALING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

As we are all aware, there is gripping evidence of the impact of climate change on all aspects of the environment and human life, including human health and well being. According to the Lancet, climate change has become the biggest global health threat in the 21st century. As South Africans we have all witnessed a recent spate of adverse weather events, which all conspire to affect livelihoods, disease patterns, food and water availability, and the economy.

The need for healthcare professionals to be involved in addressing climate change has been emphasized by the World Medical Association and the World Health Organisations, among other leading healthcare bodies. The South African medical community needs to build professional awareness of the importance of the environment and climate change to personal, community and societal health. In recognition of the importance of this role, SAMA has, under the auspices of its Health Policy Committee, established a subcommittee on climate change, which has developed a SAMA draft position on climate change.

It is in this light that SAMA is calling on all SAMA members individually and through various SAMA structures, to regularly incorporate some dialogue on climate change in their meetings. This call includes individuals reducing their carbon footprint and linking climate change to their day to day professional and civil life.

Together with other healthcare professionals, doctors can indeed unite to protect human life, save lives and save money.

For further information or documents on climate change please contact **Bernard Mutsago** at bernardm@samedical.org; Ph: 012 4812018

Kind regards.

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