



STATEMENT

Xenophobic violence

The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa has observed with dismay and horror the xenophobic violence which has been manifest on an unprecedented scale over the past 2 weeks in South Africa.

These brutal attacks on vulnerable and often long-established members of our communities are abhorrent and reflect total disregard of our constitutional commitment to protect the rights of everyone who lives in South Africa. We support the involvement of many of the members of our Colleges in providing relief and support to these victims.

We also wish to state that we have developed links with many colleagues in Colleges and Universities in Africa and, as a consequence, have had the opportunities of valuable professional exchanges and the development of academic links

within Africa. We wish to emphasise that we hope these will continue and expand despite the dismal image we are currently projecting to the international community.

Together with many of our fellow South Africans we have a sense of shame because of the violence. We support our leaders in their attempts to deal with this national tragedy and urge all sectors of government and civil society to do their utmost to contain, and put an end to, this wave of xenophobia in our country.

Professor Zephne M van der Spuy, *President*
Professor Lizo Mazwai, *Immediate Past President*
Professor Ralph Kirsch, *Past President*

The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa
 27 May 2008

15th BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY OF PSYCHIATRISTS



INVITED INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS

Prof Oye Gureje (Nigeria)

Prof David Ndeti (Kenya)

Prof Vikram Patel (India)

10 - 14 August 2008

**Fancourt Hotel and Country Club Estate
 George, South Africa**

For further Information, please visit the website: www.sasop.co.za
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