



President Banda confirms his attendance at ICASA 2013- Cape Town; Preparations for the event are far advanced

Press release August 2013

The office of Malawian President H. E. Joyce Banda has confirmed that she will be attending the 17th International Conference on AIDS and STI's in Africa (ICASA 2013), in December in Cape Town, South Africa. ICASA is Africa's largest AIDS Conference held on African soil, and this year, the bi-annual event offers a unique platform ahead of the deadline for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, MDG's in 2015,

The theme of the conference "**Now More Than Ever: Targeting Zero**", reflects the urgency to act in the lead-up to 2015, and to support UNAIDS' drive of "Getting to Zero: zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related and TB deaths".

It is also a forum where Africa's most influential opinion leaders, scientists, NGOs, community groups, media houses and international organizations, discuss programming collaborations and innovative research in science, leadership and communities. Networking with various people from various fields will take place, all in a bid to enhance the HIV/Response

"President Banda is a promoter of HIV AIDS issues and was this year elected at the African Heads of State and government's meeting held in the Ethiopian Capital, Addis Ababa, to champion HIV Malaria and Tuberculosis in the Southern African Development Community, SADC region. Her participation to this conference, will add a value", said Prof Robert Soudre, the chairperson of SAA and ICASA 2013 Chair

ICASA 2013's preparations are far advanced and everything is falling in place.

* Over three thousand abstracts have been received. This amount is more than the number received in the previous ICASA held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2011, said Mr Luc Armand Bodea, the Coordinator of SAA.

* Opening and closing sessions of the event are almost finalized. The speakers have been identified and invitations have been sent out. Some VIPs are yet to confirm their participation.

* Plenary session topics have been defined and the speakers and their backups have been identified and invited.

* Scholarships applications are now closed. Four thousand and twenty two scholarship applications were received from 101 countries. Allocations will be decided on soon at the

marathon meeting which is scheduled from 30th August to 2nd September in Johannesburg, South Africa. Experts all over Africa have been convened to give the final touch to the programme.

The venue for ICASA; the Cape Town Convention Centre, is in a beautiful city with modern public transport, accessible accommodation and outstanding banking and telecommunications infrastructure.

See you at ICASA 2013

www.icasa2013southafrica.org

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About The Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA)

The Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA), the custodian of ICASA was founded in 1989 at the fourth International Symposium on AIDS and Associated Cancers in Africa (now ICASA) held in Marseille, France by a group of African scientists, activists and advocates in response to this epidemic. SAA envisions and African continent free of HIV, TB and malaria and their debilitating effects on communal and societal structures, where people are socially and economically empowered to live product lives in dignity. For more information on SAA please visit www.saafrica.org.

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