

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD



This Annual Report represents activities of the South African Medical Research Council from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011. The Board took office on 1 November 2010 after appointment by the Honorable Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi. However, the Board is under the competency of the Deputy Minister, Dr Gwen Ramokgopa.

Among major outstanding issues from the previous Board Report was the appointment of a new President/CEO. This was emphasised by the Minister as the priority for the Board. Indeed the Board has preoccupied itself with this elaborate process since February 2011 and the process will be concluded soon.

On induction, the Board concentrated on Corporate Governance financial management issues, guidelines of the King III Report and Key Performance Indicators.

Other matters under consideration by the Board were the presentations of the Deputy Minister, Dr Gwen Ramokgopa, on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the 10-Point Plan and the Negotiated Service Delivery Agreements (NSDAs), which are to be taken into alignment with the three-year Strategic Plan and Annual Performance Plan.

The MRC is planning to hold a stakeholder workshop for a 5–10 year-Strategic Plan in line with the health research needs of the Country's Quadruple Burden of Disease, Lancet Report and the recommendations of the Academy of Science for South Africa (ASSAf) Report. The workshop will also cover some aspects of the SETI Review Report, and a restructuring of the research units in line with a revitalised and transformed Health Research Agenda.

The Chairman would like to thank the Board members, the Executive Committee and staff of the MRC for their support and diligence in tackling some of the challenges at hand.

Finally, I would like to thank the Minister of Health, the Deputy Minister of Health and the Director-General of Health for the enthusiasm that they are injecting into the MRC; and also the support of the Directorate for Public Entities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mazwai'.

Prof. Mazwai
Chairperson MRC Board
27 July 2011