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Empowering Futures: Professor Lufuno Makhado Joins the Expert Group on Adolescent Well-being Investment Case!



Prof Lufuno Makhado's appointment to the Expert Group on the Adolescent Well-being Investment Case is a significant milestone for adolescent health initiatives. His inclusion in this esteemed group, convened by the World Health Organisation, the National Department of Health, and the Presidency of South Africa, is a testament to his notable expertise and unwavering commitment to improving adolescent health and well-being.

The Expert Group, with its unwavering dedication to advancing initiatives for adolescent health, is committed to two critical areas: establishing the National Adolescent Health and Well-being Forum and creating a comprehensive toolkit for investment in adolescent well-being.

Prof Makhado's extensive background in adolescent health is expected to play a vital role in shaping these initiatives, which build on the Adolescent Well-being Framework initiated in 2020. As a member and a key contributor, he will be responsible for actively designing the investment case and leading the collaboration with various stakeholders, including government entities, academic institutions, United Nations (UN) agencies, and civil society organisations.

Prof Lufuno Makhado's research and professional expertise align with the objectives of the Expert Group on Adolescent Well-Being. He focuses on community health, HIV/TB management, sexual and reproductive health, and psychosocial care, all crucial for improving adolescent well-being. His work addresses critical issues such as HIV management, trauma care, and gender-based violence. Additionally, he strengthens health systems in underserved communities and promotes sexual and reproductive health education to encourage safe practices and provide support for vulnerable adolescents.

His academic work, professional roles, and research focus offer strong synergies with the Expert Group on Adolescent Well-Being goals, creating a coherent and robust team addressing the multidimensional aspects of adolescent health, education, and social challenges.

Prof Makhado expressed, "As an appointee to the Expert Group on Adolescent Well-Being, I am honoured to advance the health and well-being of young people while enhancing the University of Venda's visibility and impact. This role offers a strategic opportunity to expand our collaborations and partnerships, both locally and globally, in key areas like sexual and reproductive health, mental health, and integrated healthcare services. My focus is to position our university and the Department of Public Health as leaders in addressing the needs of adolescents in underserved communities in South Africa and on a global scale. Together, through innovative research and evidence-based interventions, we can build stronger health systems, empower adolescents, and create a healthier future for all." He also expressed gratitude to all his support systems, including his wife, advisors, mentors, the Department of Public Health, and the University of Venda for their unwavering support and encouragement.

Prof Makhado's appointment marks a significant step forward in enhancing the health and well-being of adolescents in South Africa. It will undoubtedly contribute to developing impactful strategies in this vital area.

On behalf of the University the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Postgraduate Studies, Prof Nosisi Feza said she is excited to hear about Prof Makhado's appointment to the Expert Group on Adolescent Well-being Investment Case! "This is a significant recognition of your expertise and dedication to improving the lives of young people. Your insights and leadership will undoubtedly make a lasting impact on the well-being of adolescents. I am excited to see how your contributions will shape policies and initiatives in this vital area. Congratulations once again on this well-deserved achievement!"

Issued by:

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