

SPEECH OF HON. DR. DAVID PAGWESESE PARIRENYATWA, SAA PRESIDENT

Dear colleagues, partners and especially participants of this first joint SAA/WHO AFRO webinar on Monkeypox Virus. I am indeed honored to welcome you to this webinar which is in line with the call of WHO to declare the outbreak of the Monkeypox virus as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). Our Mandate as Society for AIDS in Africa is to provide the right platform for knowledge sharing and decriminalization of any pandemic in Africa to facilitate adequate, scientific and evidence-based response within our communities.

Let me thank the WHO AFRO Director Dr. Mathidiso Moeti for her endless effort and commitment in making sure our governments and health systems in Africa are eager to overcome any emerging viral infections/diseases like the Monkeypox virus which we believe will not be disaster for our beloved continent.

I will end by thanking all panelists and participants for their valuable time in attending this webinar. Let us put in practice the outcomes, let us all be ambassadors to end the spread of the Monkeypox virus in our settings and let us make sure that stigmatization should not disrupt the end of the Monkeypox virus as Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) in Africa.