

20 May 2021

To: Prof Khangelani Zuma
Human and Social Capabilities (HSC)
Human Sciences Research Council
Private Bag X41
Pretoria,
0001
South Africa

Dear Prof Zuma

Ethics Clearance of HSRC Research Ethics Committee Protocol No REC 4/18/11/15: THE SIXTH SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL HIV PREVALENCE, INCIDENCE, BEHAVIOUR, AND COMMUNICATION SURVEY, 2021 (SABSSM VI)

The HSRC REC has considered and noted your application dated 17 March 2021.

The study was provisionally approved pending appropriate responses to queries raised. Your responses dated 14 May 2021 to the queries raised on 30 April 2021 have been noted by a sub-committee of the Research Ethics Committee.

The conditions have now been met and the study is given full ethics Approval and research may begin as from 19 May 2021.

This approval is valid for one year from (**19 May 2021**). To ensure uninterrupted approval of this study beyond the approval expiry date, an application for recertification must be submitted to the HSRC REC on the appropriate HSRC form 2-3 months before the expiry date. Failure to do so will lead to an automatic lapse of ethics approval, which will need to be reported to study sponsors and relevant stakeholders.

Any amendments to this study, unless urgently required to ensure safety of participants, must be approved by HSRC REC prior to implementation.

Your acceptance of this approval denotes your compliance with South African National Research Ethics Guidelines (2015), South African National Good Clinical Practice Guidelines (2006) (if applicable) and with HSRC REC ethics requirements as contained in the HSRC REC Terms of Reference and Standard Operating Procedures, all available at <http://www.hsrc.ac.za/en/about/research-ethics/documentation>.

The HSRC REC is registered with the South African National Health Research Ethics Council (REC-290808-015). The HSRC REC has US Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) Federal-wide Assurance (FWA Organisation No. 0000 6347).

We wish you well with this study.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Rossouw', is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Professor T. Rossouw
Chair: HSRC Research Ethics Committee