



## PRESS RELEASE

Reference : Council salutes the late paleoanthropologist, Prof. Phillip Tobias  
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### **Press release 8 of 2012: Council salutes the late paleoanthropologist, Prof. Phillip Tobias**

The Council for Medical Schemes is touched by and mourns the passing of a South African icon in the health profession, Prof. Phillip Tobias.

Council shares with the South African community, as well as local and international medical and scientific institutions, the loss of a world-renowned human biologist, healthcare educator, and paleoanthropologist who died in Johannesburg on Thursday morning at the age of 86, after a long illness.

“Prof. Tobias’s monumental achievements and contribution to healthcare, medicine and humanity over the last six decades elevated the body of knowledge globally, putting South Africa firmly on the map as a contributor in the field of science,” the Registrar of Medical Schemes and Chief Executive of the Council, Dr Monwabisi Gantsho, said on behalf of the Council.

Prof. Tobias, who was Professor Emeritus of Anatomy and Human Biology at the University of the Witwatersrand and Honorary Professor of Paleoanthropology at the institution, enrolled at Wits Medical School in 1944. He received his B.Sc. (Hons) in Histology and Physiology in 1947 and graduated as a medical doctor with his MBCh degree in 1950.

Dr Gantsho noted: “Prof. Tobias cared deeply about healthcare as a medical doctor, the origins of humankind as a paleoanthropologist, and health education as a renowned teacher in the medical sciences. He became Professor and Head of the Department of Anatomy and Human Biology at Wits in 1959 and stayed with them until he became Dean of the Faculty in the 1980s.

“Many members of medical schemes and many of our stakeholders have benefited immensely from his teachings, scholarly achievements and contribution to the body of evidence-based medicine and science. He will be remembered with fond memories for his generosity and caring. In his own words, he did not leave a genetic legacy but rather a cultural one, orally transmitted through education.

“Our sincere condolences extend to his family, former colleagues, and students.”

**For more information**

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