



2 December 2020

TO: THE MINISTER OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

Department of Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs
National Disaster Management Centre
Per email: MandisaMB@cogta.gov.za; pamelas@cogta.gov.za

TO: THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

Department of Health
Per email: Lwazimanzi@gmail.com; georgina.sylvester@health.gov.za;
georgina.sylvester1@gmail.com

TO: HEAD OF CENTRE: NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE

C/o Dr Mmaphaka Tau
Per e-mail: MmaphakaT@ndmc.gov.za

Dear Honourable Ministers Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and Dr Zweli Mkhize,

DEVELOPMENT OF A PLAN TO ENSURE AFFORDABLE ACCESS TO AND EQUITABLE ALLOCATION OF COVID-19 VACCINES: REQUEST FOR A RESPONSE

1. We refer to our letter dated 16 November 2020 ("initial letter") in which we requested a response by 30 November 2020. Such time has lapsed, and we note with concern that we have not received an acknowledgment and response.
2. We note further that since our initial letter various developments have taken place concerning the acquisition and allocation of vaccines with President Cyril Ramaphosa, in his capacity as Chairperson of the African Union, establishing

the Covid-19 African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team,¹ South Africa's appointment as a co-chair of the Global Act-A Initiative, preliminary commitments to manufacture certain vaccines in South Africa,² and governments publicly expressed support for the voluntary COVAX initiative.³

3. Despite these developments, we persist with the important and urgent requests detailed in our initial letter and detail them again here for your ease of reference:

15.1. *Has the National Centre, developed guidelines concerning the development, review and updating of disaster management plans which deal with access to and allocation of vaccines (Vaccine Access and Allocation Plans)?⁴ If so, kindly provide us with a copy of the guidelines.*

15.2. *If the National Centre has not developed such guidelines, kindly advise on the steps which will be taken in order to comply with this statutory duty, as well as the proposed timeline.*

15.3. *Is there a plan to budget and prioritise vulnerable groups and key populations in relation to access to and allocation of vaccines? If so, what is the plan? It would be appreciated if we could receive a copy of any such plan.*

15.4. *Which specific institutions and national organs of state have been identified as the key institutional role-players involved in disaster management which would be required to develop Vaccine Access and Allocation Plans as part of their disaster management plans and strategies?⁵*

15.5. *Have any of these key institutional role-players developed Vaccine Access and Allocation Plans? If so, kindly provide us with copies of the plans.*

15.6. *What specific steps have been taken by the National Centre to assist with the co-ordination and implementation of these plans if / when they are developed?⁶*

¹ President Cyril Ramaphosa Speech, 11 November 2020 [accessed on 1 December 2020] available at: <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-11>

² Ibid.

³ South Africa Confirms Going for COVAX Vaccine Scheme for 10% of Population [accessed on 1 December 2020] available at: <https://furtherafrica.com/2020/11/25/south-africa-confirms-going-for-covax-vaccine-scheme-for-10-of-population/>

⁴ See section 19(a) and (e) of the Disaster Management Act.

⁵ See, for example, sections 19(b) and (d) of the Disaster Management Act.

⁶ See section 19(d) of the Disaster Management Act.

15.7. *We assume that to the extent that Vaccine Access and Allocation Plans have been developed, they will they be made public in the interest of transparency, accountability, and general good governance. It is in that context that we have requested copies of any guidelines and Vaccine Access and Allocation Plans. If you are for any reason unable to provide copies to us, please advise us as to the reason/s why, and how we may otherwise obtain a copy.*

15.8. *In the event that no Vaccine Access and Allocation Plans have been developed, we would respectfully request that you advise on the proposed timeline for the development of such plans and consider having an urgent multi-stakeholder engagement regarding the factors which should be considered while developing them.*

15. Despite not having yet received a response, we trust that this matter can still be dealt with openly and transparently. As a result, kindly provide us with a response by no later than the close of business on **8 December 2020**.

16. Please note that in the interests of transparency we may publish this correspondence and any response received.

Yours sincerely,



FATIMA HASSAN
HEALTH JUSTICE INITIATIVE

CC: THE PRESIDENCY: NATIONAL COMMAND COUNCIL

C/o Ms Khusela Diko, Mr Mike Louw and Ms Nokukhanya Jele
Per e-mail: khusela@presidency.gov.za; presidentrsa@presidency.gov.za;
njjele@law.co.za

CC: MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Department of Justice and Correctional Services
C/o Ms Zanele Ndlovu, Mr Bruce Sarela and Ms Kalayvani Pillay
Per e-mail: ZaneNdlovu@justice.gov.za; bsarela@justice.gov.za;
KalaPillay@justice.gov.za

CC: MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON VACCINES

C/o Professor Barry Schoub
Per e-mail: barry.schoub@gmail.com

CC: SOUTH AFRICAN HEALTH PRODUCTS REGULATORY AUTHORITY

C/o Dr Boitumelo Semete-Makokotlela
Per e-mail: Boitumelo.Semete@sahpra.org.za

CC: SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
C/o Dr Glenda Gray
Per e-mail: Glenda.Gray@mrc.ac.za

ENDS.