



15 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 letters dated 16 November 2020 and 2 December 2020 and note that we have not yet received a substantive response from either aforementioned Department. We have received a response from Dr Mmaphaka Tau, the Head of the National Disaster Management Centre ("National Centre"). However, the limited response advises only that the Department of Health is "responsible for vaccine related matters".
2. While we do not comment, at this stage, on the correctness or otherwise of the position adopted by Dr Tau and the National Centre, we do restate the increasing

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Reference Advisory Group: Dr Francois Venter, Phumi Mtetwa, Dr Francois Bonnici, Phumeza Mlungwana, Dr Els Torreele, Prof. Tshepo Madlingozi, Justice Kate O'Regan, Noncedo Madubedube, Dr Linda Gail Bekker, Dr Shuaib Manjra.

Board: Dr Shuaib Manjra, Noncedo Madubedube, Fatima Hassan.

urgency for the development and publication of the COVID-19 vaccine access and allocation plan(s) referred to in our previous letters, particularly to ensure the proper management by the state of the country's overall vaccination access, supply and allocation processes, both for the public and private sectors, as they may conflict with one another, as things stand.

3. Resultantly, we persist with our request for a response to the questions posed in our letter dated 16 November 2020 and restated in our letter dated 2 December 2020. Pursuant to paragraph 15.8 of our letter dated 16 November 2020, we also strongly suggest that an urgent multi-stakeholder engagement be called to discuss the development and / or finalisation of such plans and, to the extent that such engagement is called, that we are invited to it.
4. We look forward to hearing from you, as a matter of urgency, failing which we will seek guidance on other options, including legal processes, available to us to compel the development and / or publication of the above-mentioned plans. While we reserve the right to pursue these options, we trust that they will not be necessary.
5. 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