



MEDIA RELEASE

Pretoria High Court Judgement on COVID-19 Vaccinations

Embargo: Immediate Release

Pretoria, 11 March 2024 – On 05 January 2023, the COVID Care Alliance NPC and other applicants brought an urgent court application against the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA), including the President of the Republic of South Africa and others to prevent people from being vaccinated.

The applicants wanted the court to order that all COVID-19 vaccines programs must be stopped and that all COVID-19 vaccination sections in healthcare facilities in South Africa must be closed, and the effective withdrawal from circulation of the vaccines. The applicants also sought an order interdicting the approval of vaccines for emergency authorisation or registration.

On 27 February 2024, the Pretoria High Court dismissed with costs an application filed by the applicants on the grounds that the applicants do not have the right to prevent others, who do not share in their beliefs or opinions, from being vaccinated. SAHPRA submitted evidence to the Court to show that the applicants' attempt to prevent government from using vaccines to address the COVID-19 pandemic was misguided, and the applicants heavily relied on hearsay and speculation, as well as supported their arguments with the opinion of persons who were not experts.

SAHPRA CEO, Dr Boitumelo Semete-Makokotlela said, “This court ruling indicates that SAHPRA is judicious in adhering to its mandate responsibly and prides itself in making scientific evidence-based decisions. We welcome the outcome of this judgement.”

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About SAHPRA:

SAHPRA is tasked with regulating (monitoring, evaluating, investigating, inspecting and registering) all health products. This includes clinical trials, complementary medicines, medical devices and in-vitro diagnostics (IVDs). Furthermore, SAHPRA has the added responsibility of overseeing radiation control in South Africa. SAHPRA’s mandate is outlined in the Medicines and Related Substances Act (Act No 101 of 1965 as amended) as well as the Hazardous Substances Act (Act No 15 of 1973).

SAHPRA has three pillars to ensure that medicines, medical devices and IVDs meet the requisite standards to protect the health and well-being of all who reside in South Africa:

- Safety
- Efficacy
- Quality

It is these three pillars that define the ethos of SAHPRA.

Notes to Editors:

SAHPRA will post this media release on our website. Navigate to the News section on the website.

A podcast will be recorded and posted on the home page. Scroll down the home page to “**SAHPRA TV and Podcasts**”. Podcasts appear on the right-hand side.

Should you request an interview for television, please send your request to media@sahpra.org.za and copy melanie.govindasamy@sahpra.org.za. Include your discussion points in your request.

Updates on vaccine registration can be accessed here:

Vaccines - News and updates (sahpra.org.za) - <https://www.sahpra.org.za/news-and-updates/vaccines-news-and-updates/>