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MR Cyril Xaba

Investigation and hearings on the illegal and irregular importation of the Cuban drug “Hebron Interferon Alpha-2B” by the Military Command Council (MCC)

I refer to the now notorious illegal and irregular trafficking/movement of the above-mentioned Cuban drugs by the SANDF into South Africa, without the prior approval and registration by SAHPRA and complying with the statutory import regulation and protocols of any medicine into SA. We know the SAMHS apparently did not support this transaction, because they knew the products are not registered and approved in SA for human application and use. This clearly includes soldiers and members of DoD and the SANDF.

While the auditor general has done some investigations and will report to our portfolio committee on Wednesday 3rd February 2021, the agenda and documentation provided by the DoD seems not to address this embarrassing decision and everything that flows from this resolution by the MCC to approve this transaction(s).

Based on the documents provided; the concern that this important issue and clear transgressions will not be addressed; and to the testimonies and comments by Judge Zondo during this week's Zondo Commission hearings, I suggest and request for special portfolio meetings to investigate, interact and interrogate the facts and anyone who can assist us to determine what transpired.

In order for us to comply with our constitutional duties and oath of office, must we have in-depth discussions with, among others,

- Auditor General
- SAHPRA, into the registration and authorisation of these products, plus information on their effort to seize the referred to medicine from the SANDF medicine storage depot at Salvokop Pretoria
- SAPS/HAWKS who accompanied SAHPRA to seize the medicine at the SANDF's Salvokop facility in Pretoria
- SAMHS, specifically the Surgeon General, the Deputy Surgeon General, and the relevant SAMHS directorate responsible for procurement, storage, registration, compliance to SAHPRA requirements, and storage of medicine
- The Chaplain General on his media statement and the info he has from reliable sources about medicine that can save soldiers' lives
- The CSANDF and his MCC who took the resolution despite opposition from the SAMHS
 - o Explanations and clarity is required to a declaration members of the DoD and SANDF must sign not to divulge any information related to Covid-19 and the Cuban medicine fiasco
- The minutes of the MCC where the decisions were taken to proceed with the illegal transportation of the referred to drugs
- The Minister of Defence as the executive head responsible for the SANDF and DoD
- The NT and any other state department to give evidence and clarity on the requirements for the importation of medicine by the SANDF and any laws, regulations, protocols, etc not adhered to by the SANDF with the trafficking and/or transportation of this Cuban drugs into SA.

Regards



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