MEDIA RELEASE

SAHPRA clarifies its stance on Ivermectin

Embargo: Immediate release

Pretoria, 03 February 2021 – There is an erroneous notion that SAHPRA "buckled under pressure" as a consequence of the court action brought by, amongst others the Afriforum regarding access to Ivermectin. SAHPRA wishes to state unequivocally that this is NOT the case.

The court deliberations of 2 February 2021 culminated in an order that reiterates the position that SAHPRA communicated on 27 January 2021. In other words, SAHPRA's programme of controlled compassionate use of Ivermectin remains firmly in place.

On 27 January 2021 SAHPRA held a press conference where it set out how it will ensure that there is controlled compassionate use of Ivermectin.

"SAHPRA notes the limited treatment options for the COVID-19 pandemic and is also concerned about the escalation of positive cases of COVID-19 and deaths. As SAHPRA's focus is on the health and well-being of the South African public, SAHPRA had several meetings and consultations with the scientific and medical community to explore the options for controlled, monitored access to reliable quality ivermectin-containing products for human use with simple but essential reporting requirements. The culmination of the many engagements was the decision to implement the Programme. This move was announced at the media briefing held on 27 January 2021. SAHPRA's timing and the action brought on by Afriforum is a mere coincidence," indicates SAHPRA CEO, Dr Boitumelo Semete-Makokotlela.

On 28 January 2021, SAHPRA published the Programme. This effectively rendered the first part of the court application moot. The access programme, the SAHPRA press statement of 27 January 2021 and the Court Order are accessible at:

https://www.sahpra.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Section_21_Ivermectin_Controlled_Compassionate-Use-Programme_Jan21_FINAL.docx.pdf

and

https://www.sahpra.org.za/press-releases/update-on-the-use-of-ivermectin-in-the-prevention-or-treatment-of-covid-19/

https://www.sahpra.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/COURT-ORDER-GRANTED-2021-02-03.pdf

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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.