

26 January 2021

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

ATTENTION:

BY E-MAIL

Dear,

RE: GOVERNMENT'S RACIAL PLANS FOR THE ROLL OUT OF THE VACCINE.

1. Solidarity is a registered Trade Union who represents approximately 190 000 employees across all sectors of the labour market. The recent outbreak of the Covid-19 virus is of great concern to Solidarity and the members which we represent. We would therefore from the outset wish to pledge our commitment to all efforts so to combat the virus, alleviate the consequence thereof and ensure National Unity during a time of an International Disaster.



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2. Solidarity has, however, noted with great concern, in this state of disaster, that the response from Government regarding the roll out of the vaccine has been imbued with preference based on race, once again (See attached hereto the Government's view on the roll-out of our vaccine programme).
3. Plans and strategies designed to benefit businesses and individuals along racial lines; are not only contrary to the values and principles enunciated in our Constitution; but also indicate that some groups of the society are more worthy of being shielded and protected against the devastating impact of the current pandemic than others.
4. We would therefore express our firm belief that during a time of such a devastating disaster there should be no differentiation and or discrimination either directly and or indirectly on the basis of race, gender and or other listed grounds as set out in section 9(3) of the Constitution.
5. In the grips of a pandemic, risking both the livelihoods as well as the lives of citizens no one should seek to profit. Pres. Ramaphosa was resolute in his rebuke of PPE and food tender scandals which exposed individuals who sought to opportunistically benefit from the pandemic. Yet, it appears as though he has abandoned this stance.



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6. During a meeting attended by the South African government and the Progressive Business Forum Pres. Ramaphosa said that the roll-out of the vaccines would provide an opportunity for black empowerment. It is frankly inexcusable for a government to portray the pandemic as an opportunity for enrichment of any kind.

7. These plans by the government to utilize a state of disaster, relating to the public's health, to fuel their political agendas and race obsessed plans are in stark contrast with National Legislation and International guidelines, specifically the WHO's constitution which states the following (own emphasis):

Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition

Governments have a responsibility for the health of their peoples which can be fulfilled only by the provision of adequate health and social measures.



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8. In terms of *Article 23* of the WHO's constitution the Health Assembly shall have authority to make recommendations to members with respect to any matter within the competence of the organization.

9. Furthermore *Article 2* of the constitution establishes a mandate whereby the WHO can advise governments to use the most efficient methods during a pandemic such as the one South Africa is currently facing.

10. In light of the aforementioned, we urgently call on the WHO to give the much-needed guidance according to their constitution, and advise South Africa's government that race has no place when the health and lives of citizen's are threatened.

Regards,

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SOLIDARITY



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