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To the Minister of Health of South Africa,  
Dr. M.E. Tshabalala-Msimang  
Union Buildings  
Pretoria

**Submission to the Minister of Health by the Dr. Rath Health Foundation  
concerning the proposed amendment of the Regulations to the Medicines and  
Related Substances Act**

It is the position of the Dr. Rath Health Foundation that the *ban* on natural health and traditional medicine proposed by the Medicines Control Council must be rejected and replaced with legislation that makes unrestricted access to natural health and traditional medicine a constitutional *right* for the people of South Africa.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. The new regulations proposed by the Medicines Control Council ('MCC') amount to a radical attack on the freedom of the people of South Africa to make informed decisions about how best to maintain their health and recover it when they are unwell, and directly threaten their health and their lives.
- 1.2. This proposed legislation that would take away free access to natural health and traditional medicine is not proposed in order to protect or improve the health of millions of people in South Africa, but instead to protect and promote the economic interests of the multi-trillion dollar investment business of the pharmaceutical industry.

## **2. BACKGROUND TO THE AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE MCC: THE PHARMACEUTICAL INVESTMENT BUSINESS**

- 2.1. The pharmaceutical industry is not a health industry serving the health interests of the people, but it is one of today's largest and most profitable investment industries, driven by the financial interests of its investors.
- 2.2. The multi-trillion dollar returns on investment of the pharmaceutical industry are based on two main factors: a) the continuation and expansion of diseases as drug markets and b) the extraordinary profits deriving from patent royalties of synthetic – non-natural – drugs as the merchandise for these expanding markets.
- 2.3. Effective, safe and affordable natural health approaches threaten the very existence of the pharmaceutical 'investment business with disease' for two reasons: a) they are not patentable and therefore have low profit margins and b) many natural substances such as vitamins and other essential nutrients correct the cellular root cause of diseases and eventually lead to their eradication, and thereby destroy the multi-trillion drug market.
- 2.4. Effective, non-patentable, natural health therapies are incompatible by their very nature with the pharmaceutical 'investment business with disease'. As a direct consequence of this antagonism the pharmaceutical investment business must eliminate any competition from natural health approaches that can effectively control diseases. This economic factor is what really drives the MCC's proposed legislation to ban natural health therapies.
- 2.5. In turn, the biggest obstacle for the eradication of today's most common diseases is the pharmaceutical investment business, because it is dependent on maintaining and expanding diseases. Only by implementing effective, safe and affordable natural health therapies as the foundation of national health policies will the control of today's most common diseases in South Africa become reality, including cardiovascular disease, cancer and HIV/AIDS.
- 2.6. If the legislation now proposed by the MCC to ban natural health therapies becomes law, it would effectively eliminate the possibility for millions of South African people to control today's most common diseases by natural means and for generations to come.

## **3. BACKGROUND TO THE AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE MCC: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS THREATENING THE SURVIVAL OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL INVESTMENT BUSINESS**

- 3.1. The first factor threatening the survival of the pharmaceutical investment business is the progress made in the area of science-based natural health. Recently, discoveries have been made that have identified a deficiency in vitamins and other essential nutrients as the primary cause of today's most common diseases including cardiovascular disease, cancer, HIV/AIDS, osteoporosis and other common health problems. Our foundation's web site, [www.dr-rath-foundation.org](http://www.dr-rath-foundation.org), archives thousands of clinical studies and research data in natural health.

- 3.2. The second factor threatening the very survival of the pharmaceutical investment business is the epidemic of life-threatening side effects of almost all pharmaceutical drugs. The known deadly side effects of pharmaceutical drugs prescribed by doctors have reached epidemic proportions and have become the fourth leading cause of death in the industrialized world, surpassed only by heart disease, cancer and strokes.
- 3.3. The epidemic of deadly side effects of pharmaceutical drugs is no exception – it is the rule. It is the direct and inevitable consequence of the synthetic nature of the chemical drugs produced by this industry. These chemicals have no natural, physiological function in the billions of cells of our body. On the contrary, they are recognized by these cells as toxic chemicals that need to be detoxified in the liver. Doctors, politicians and millions of people around the world have yet to recognize the fact that the epidemic of deadly side effects from painkillers such as Vioxx and from cholesterol-blockers such as Baycol are not exceptions, they are inevitable.

#### **4. THE BACKGROUND TO THE AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE MCC: THE BAN ON NATURAL AND TRADITIONAL MEDICINE IS THE KEY TOOL TO MAINTAIN PHARMACEUTICAL COLONIALISM**

- 4.1. The global monopoly of the pharmaceutical investment business is one of the most deadly forms of corporate colonialism today. This ‘investment business with disease’ is orchestrated from corporations based in just half a dozen rich countries at the expense of the health and the lives of billions people in almost 200 less wealthy and developing nations. Two out of three pharmaceutical pills currently marketed anywhere in the world come from corporations based in the US or the UK.
- 4.2. In order to maintain its monopoly on world health the pharmaceutical industry is dependent on instruments that artificially stabilize their global monopoly including protectionist legislation at the national and international level.
- 4.3. The principal tactic to accomplish this goal is a legal ban on the dissemination of information about the health benefits of natural therapies. The legislation proposed by the MCC is consistent with similar attempts by the pharmaceutical cartel in other countries, regions and at the global level:
- 4.3.1. In 1992 the Pharma Cartel attempted to outlaw natural health therapies in the USA by abusing the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the American equivalent of the MCC in South Africa. This attack was triggered by a breakthrough discovery in natural health: the fact that cardiovascular disease is an early form of the vitamin deficiency condition scurvy, and therefore is preventable by natural means. The attack backfired when millions of Americans rose in protest. In August 1994 the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act [[www.fda.gov/opacom/laws/dshea.html](http://www.fda.gov/opacom/laws/dshea.html)] was passed unanimously by both houses of US Congress guaranteeing free access to natural health to the people of America.
- 4.3.2. In 1999 a similar attempt was made by the Pharma Cartel in the United Kingdom. The Medicines Control Council - the British equivalent of the

MCC in South Africa - proposed legislation under the code name MLX 249 that would have essentially outlawed natural health therapies in the UK. Once again this attempt failed because the people in Great Britain stood up against it.

- 4.3.3. After its defeat in the USA, the Pharma Cartel regrouped at the international level by abusing the United Nation's Codex Alimentarius Commission. Since 1996 it has been seeking a global ban on natural health information for all member countries of the United Nations - that is worldwide. Opposition worldwide has prevented the Pharma Cartel from achieving this goal. Since 2003 the opposition against the Pharma Cartel's intention to outlaw natural health worldwide has had a voice within the Codex Alimentarius Commission: the government of South Africa has become an international leader in resisting the Pharma cartel's plan and in promoting natural health instead to the benefit of the people of the world.
- 4.3.4. It is obvious that the amendment proposed by the MCC is in direct contradiction and opposition to the official position of the South African government to make natural health accessible to all people in South Africa and the world.
- 4.3.5. Dr. Rath and the Dr. Rath Health Foundation have been instrumental in promoting this international movement for natural health freedom in two main areas: First, by advancing the scientific knowledge about the profound health benefits of natural therapies in the fight against today's most common diseases. Second, in advancing the international battle for unrestricted access of the people of the world to this life-saving health information. This decade-long battle is documented in detail on the web site of our foundation.

## **5. BACKGROUND TO THE AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE MCC: WHY SOUTH AFRICA NOW**

- 5.1. The South African government is already a threat to the global interests of the Pharma Cartel. It has taken the lead in the global battle against the patent-based drug investment business and its devastating effects on the lives of hundreds of millions of people in the developing world.
- 5.2. The Minister of Health of South Africa is internationally recognized for her opposition to the Pharma Cartel and is a vocal advocate of natural health alternatives to harmful synthetic drugs.
- 5.3. South Africa, the host of the African Parliament, holds a key position within the African community of nations and is a leader of the developing world. The MCC's proposed legislation is part of a global containment strategy of the Pharma Cartel to limit the influence of South Africa on other nations in their efforts to liberate themselves from the shackles of pharmaceutical colonialism and ensure affordable health for their people.
- 5.4. The greatest health problem in South Africa today is the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The Pharma Cartel has capitalized on this epidemic to loot the South African

economy and increase its dependency on the international drug investment business. To that effect it is financing and promoting so-called treatment action committees and funding opposition political parties with the strategic goal to pressure the South African government to spend ruinous amounts of money on useless and toxic drugs.

- 5.5. The pharmaceutical cartel's bogus claims to hold the answer to the problem of AIDS was demolished by the publication of a landmark study on July 1, 2004, in the New York Times. This study involving more than 1000 HIV positive pregnant women showed that a combination of vitamins - natural substances - were able to slow down the development of disease by 50%. This study confirmed that safe and affordable vitamins were more effective in controlling the AIDS epidemic than any expensive patentable pharmaceutical drugs. And, as opposed to the deadly side effects of nevirapine and AZT, these natural compounds had no ill effects.
- 5.6. It is appalling that instead of promoting this life-saving information, the MCC should seek to restrict it, thereby deliberately withholding critical health information and jeopardizing the lives of millions of patients.

## **6. THE MCC AS AN INSTRUMENT OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL CARTEL**

- 6.1. The MCC is an organization that primarily serves the profit interests of the pharmaceutical cartel rather than the health interests of the South African people. Its members are medical and pharmacology academics dependent on the pharmaceutical cartel for research funding, dependent on this cartel, and therefore incapable of making independent recommendations in the interest of the people of South Africa.
- 6.2. The MCC in South Africa is modeled on similar organizations in the homeland of the Pharma Cartel, the US FDA and the UK MCC, by which the Cartel pressurizes the government and manipulates public opinion.
- 6.3. The MCC gives the deceptive impression to the public that it speaks on behalf of the South African government in trying to ban free access to natural health therapies. In fact, the position of the MCC is diametrically opposed to that of the South African government.

## **7. THE FALSE JUSTIFICATION OF THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

- 7.1. The MCC deceptively claims on behalf of the pharmaceutical industry that this ban on natural health is necessary in order to protect the people of South Africa from the alleged side effects of natural therapies. This argument is a sham.
- 7.2. The fact is, however, that no one ever died from safe natural therapies, while the known deadly side effects of pharmaceutical drugs kill more than one million people worldwide every year.
- 7.3. The MCC is using this deception in order to disguise its intentions and to rally support for a change in the law that is directed against the interests of millions of people in South Africa.

## **8. THE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

- 8.1. As a direct result of this proposed legislation millions of people in South Africa would continue to die from preventable diseases.
- 8.2. As a direct result of this proposed legislation the people of South Africa would be made dependent on the pharmaceutical cartel by force of law. They would be exclusively dependent on pharmaceutical drugs that do not cure, while creating side effects and new diseases in epidemic proportions as future markets for the expanding drug business of the Cartel.
- 8.3. As a direct result of this legislation proposed by the MCC the people and the government of South Africa would be forced to continue financing the multi-trillion dollar drug investment business and their stakeholders in the US, the UK and other rich countries. This would happen at the cost of further impoverishing of the people of South Africa and strangling the economy of this country.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA**

- 9.1. Protect by law my fundamental right to free access to natural therapies and traditional medicine.
- 9.2. Reject the attempt to outlaw free access to natural therapies and natural health information. This attack on the health and freedom of the people of South Africa serves only the interests of the trillion-dollar pharmaceutical 'investment business with disease'.
- 9.3. Specifically reject the amendment to the Medicines and Related Substances Act proposed by the Medicines Control Council (MCC) that would effectively outlaw all natural therapies and traditional medicines in South Africa in favour of patented synthetic pharmaceutical drugs.
- 9.4. Disband the MCC, an agency whose members are directly or indirectly dependent on the international pharmaceutical industry, and whose decisions have consistently served these foreign interests at the cost of the health and lives of the people of South Africa.
- 9.5. Establish an independent, accountable and transparent government body with its focus on protecting the health interests of the people of South Africa from one of its greatest threats: the epidemic of deadly side effects of pharmaceutical drugs that are already the fourth leading cause of death in the world.
- 9.6. Promote research and implementation of safe and affordable natural therapies, effective in the fight against cardiovascular disease, cancer, AIDS, tuberculosis and other widespread diseases in order to end pharmaceutical colonialism, save millions of lives and billions in health care costs.

## **10. CALL TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA TO SUPPORT THEIR GOVERNMENT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST PHARMACEUTICAL COLONIALISM**

**Considering the economic power of the Pharma Cartel and its determination to continue oppressing the people of the world, the South African government needs the support of the people of South Africa to win this decisive battle.**

**Therefore we call upon the people of South Africa:**

- to continue the struggle for their liberation from all forms of colonialism, oppression and apartheid**
- stand up as a people to end pharmaceutical colonialism, the deadliest form of corporate colonialism there is**
- to take the lead in liberating the developing world and ultimately all mankind from its greatest oppressor, the pharmaceutical investment business with disease.**