



UNITED HOUSE OF MONARCHS (UHM)

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&

BLACK FARMERS ASSOCIATION OF SA (BFASA)

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Pretoria, South Africa, June 08 2020

TO: MINISTER ZWELI MKHIZE

TO: SAPHRA

TO: CRL Commission-Xaluva

We, the undersigned organisations comprised of kings, queens, chiefs, prince, princesses and black farmers network we feel we have been left out in the cannabis cultivation license. We are an organization founded on principles and values of our continent. We respect the letter of our constitution and we champion anti-corruption and injustices as Monarchs. We have identified that corruption and poor governance are key factors holding South Africa's development. It is on this premise that the United House of Monarchs (UHM) and Black Farmers Association of South Africa (BFASA) are forwarding this petition to you requiring immediate urgent attention.

We are rising up with this petition to challenge and provide support to indigenous peoples and communities who are struggling to defend their indigenous plant within their territories and lands (including lands under claim) against several forces that threaten them to snatch away their right through issuing of this silence to whites and a day light robbery of land grabbing by big companies to cultivate cannabis. We feel that such licensing is a severe threat to livelihoods of our people, to our indigenous plant (cannabis) and our lands.

We have been following this behaviour with great attention and considerable concern about the cannabis cultivation license since its inception and we are rising mindful of our rights as recognized by our constitution. We also reflect on our indigenous rights as recognized by United Nations (UN).

To put this petition plainly, we have huge number of cases where blacks suffered torment from previous governments for treating cannabis as herbal remedy, other cases of this human violation are dating back to colonial era in which the cannabis was demonized and burnt when it was in the hands of black people. Right up in Pondoland (AmaMpondo), our people there were criminalized for planting dagga as herbal remedy. Our people were jailed in the daylight.

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Today, the same cannabis is found with medicinal purposes yet the indigenous people who planted it are not prioritized within the licensing scheme. The license issuing board is not bridging the gap to address the atrocities of the past so that; to redress the imbalance of the past that occurred as result of deprivation of our people to exercise their indigenous right towards cannabis. The constitutional right of our people is severely tempered with the issuing of this silence.

As the UHM we are aware that BFASA has been advocating for the inclusion of small to medium Black farmers into the mainstream production and marketing of Agricultural products.

Earlier on, the licenses for cultivating medical marijuana in South Africa were granted to SA companies who now have the right to grow and export medical dagga. We firstly queried, the cost of setting up a facility to grow cannabis and get a license is estimated to be between R3 million and 5 million according to a report by Landbou Weekblad. The drip irrigation system alone could set you back up to R2 million. So, they have been left to the periphery to fend for themselves whilst whites are prioritized.

The South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAPHRA), as the legal authority did not take into consideration the marginalized, criminalized sector of our Society who have been subjected to a lot of discrimination in the past regarding the sale and use of dagga; most have actually been subjected to criminal records in that regard. To give more weight to this, our cultural right towards cannabis was severely frustrated and we cannot condone such frustration again in light of the benefit of our indigenous plant.

UHM is aware that BFASA has got specific obligations to:

- To protecting the SA cannabis industry from being exploited or dominated by foreign corporations and those that have always benefited in the past.
- To ensure that that the cannabis economy is shared equitably among all the people of South Africa and reward those that invest knowledge and resources.
- To uplift local communities through job creation, health care and education.
- To ensure cannabis permit holders adhere to BBBEE criteria.
- Minimizing harms of use especially keeping cannabis out the hands of youth.
- Intensifying the fight to keep profits out of the hands of organized crime.

So we therefore feel that it is really a pipe dream if we let the Regulatory body SAPHRA to continue as if nothing has changed in terms of getting all and sundry involved in the development of the SA economic development.

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In Cape Town there's already a Strawberry farm Polkadraai, owned by Zetler Brothers that has been the first recipient of a commercial license to farm cannabis for medical use. The license, issued by the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAPHRA).

There is also a deal that the Western Cape Government has concluded with a Canadian Company to produce and market Medical Cannabis.

We cannot sit back and watch our resources and produce being exploited by previously advantaged and always privileged individuals and foreign companies looting our Country of its Resources.

As we know and have been for ourselves, this moratorium must show that if the rest of Society is left out, it cannot be business as usual.

As monarchs and black farmers we call for a Moratorium to the cannabis permits and licenses which will be discussed in the course of forthcoming meetings between representatives of South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA), the Minister of Health and CRL Commission and the various committees at government level involved in this issue. Hence we hope that such consultations will lead to concrete steps to prevent further negative impacts of such cannabis cultivation license, such as the issuance of such license on the lands under claim by monarchs. We want the lands claimed to be expropriated without compensation for making money at our costs. Furthermore, the licenses that were issued to whites to be terminated with immediate effect so that we don't waste time by challenging this matter in court.

We kindly request the CRL Commission, SAPRHA and Minister of Health to respond quickly acknowledge this petition within three (3) from the day of receipt. It is in substance that issues raised here pertaining to this license are to be attended as soon as possible within this month of June 2020 by calling upon a meeting with you and ourselves before the adverse and socio-ecological implications of cannabis will become irreversible about our lands and our rights. We therefore sign this PETITION as Monarchs and Black Farmers in compliance with the laws of the REPUBLIC.

Warmest Regards,

His Majesty Dr Mthimkhulu III

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