

Newspaper article incorrectly quoting Executive Director of the PSSA

The PSSA is aware of the article published on Sunday 7 February 2021 in the Sunday Independent newspaper that misconstrued the words of the PSSA Executive Director Ivan Kotzé. He has already brought this to the attention of the journalist who wrote the article, who has agreed to publish a correction in the newspaper.

Most of Kotzé's words were misconstrued, but the following statements made in the article were extremely concerning:

1. *"Remember the pharmacies are businesses and they want to make profit"*

This was completely incorrect. Kotzé had explained to the journalist that if there was any merit in the claims that ivermectin has proven beneficial effects in the treatment of COVID-19 symptoms, then pharmaceutical companies would surely have applied to regulatory authorities for registration of products for this purpose. Pharmaceutical companies are invested in the industry to earn profit, and the fact that they have not applied to register

ivermectin for use in COVID-19 treatment, indicates that these claims are thus far unsubstantiated.

Kotzé pointed out that this incorrect statement caused a lot of harm in that it created a negative view of community pharmacies by suggesting that they are focusing on profit. This is not possible in a community pharmacy as the professional fee that pharmacies may charge when dispensing medication is regulated by the Department of Health. Furthermore, the sale of ivermectin cannot be initiated by the pharmacy as it must be prescribed by a medical practitioner before it can be dispensed.

2. *"If anything goes wrong the public should launch complaints against those health professionals"*

Kotzé had actually said that if any unregistered product is used, health professionals might run the risk of professional negligence claims and that professionals should be aware of this risk.

The PSSA anticipates that the correction notice will soon be published in the newspaper.

Classifieds



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Contact Elizna at elizna19@gmail.com

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