
**MEDIA STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE CRL RIGHTS COMMISSION APPEALING
FOR COLLABORATION AS THE SEARCH FOR THE CURE OF COVID-19
CONTINUES.**

Editors/Reporters

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The CRL Commission appeals to South African and international scientists and doctors, as well as traditional health practitioners to do everything possible to coordinate their efforts in finding a vaccine and a cure for COVID-19. The reality and complexity of COVID-19 should encourage all governments of the world to embrace allopathic, non-allopathic and indigenous interventions worldwide.

The Commission applauds all efforts that are being made both locally and globally to develop vaccines and a cure. Cognizant of the potential and efficacy of traditional and natural healing for a variety of physical and emotional ailments, the Commission strongly encourages the inclusion of African traditional health practitioners in our worldwide search for remedies that can contribute to combatting the virus. Importantly, this call for collaboration provides an opportunity for the realization of the World Health Organisation's Traditional Medicine (TM) Strategy 2014–2023 developed in response to the World Health Assembly resolution on traditional medicine (WHA62.13) (1) which implores Member States to harness the potential contribution of Traditional Medicine to health, wellness and people centred health care.

The profound health and socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in South Africa, Africa, and the world underscores the urgency of developing small scale and local economic initiatives, including the growth of indigenous medicinal plants. It is for this reason that the CRL Rights Commission calls for the establishment of a South African Institute for integrated African Herbal Medicine in which the Traditional Health Practitioners are a significant part. The Institute will, inter alia, deal with research, cultivation and processing of medicinal plants to determine efficacy and quality of the medicine required.

This institute will be a practical response to the long awaited intervention repeatedly echoed by African governments, who in 2000 at the Fiftieth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa resolved to urge Member States to accelerate all policy formulations, reprioritisation of health production systems and processes that do not only facilitate but afford them the space to produce evidence on the safety, efficacy and quality of traditional medicine.

The Chairperson of the CRL Rights Commission, Prof David Mosoma, thanks the South African Government for its commitment and efforts geared towards combating the spread and impact of COVID-19 in South Africa, and appeals strongly to governments and corporates throughout the world to embrace and ensure a broad scope of collaboration going forward in finding a vaccine and a cure for COVID-19.

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