

[15 January 2021](#)

A plea for hope 🤍 and trust 🙏 in these unprecedented times.

Honourable President Ramaphosa

My name is Dr Naseeba Kathrada. I am a general practitioner in Durban - Kwazulu Natal.

Mr President, I woke up this morning to the news that we have just experienced our country's deadliest week - '20 063 people die in 7 days amid covid-19 second wave blow' as reported by News24. Mr President, we are living in unprecedented times and right now - families are left shattered by the hour. Morale amongst healthcare workers is the lowest it's ever been and we on the frontline are exhausted.

You - Mr President have the authority and the ability to give us some hope in this dark hour.

You announced a state of emergency, you authorised the setting up of emergency committees like the NCC and the MAC. We have covid 'war rooms' in every province and you locked down our country to level 3 to save lives and livelihoods.

You - Honourable President have the authority to set up an urgent special council to do a thorough and rapid review of Ivermectin. Just the announcement of such a council will bring some hope back to families who have infected loved ones. We as frontline workers, will be re-energised knowing that you trust us to uphold the oath 'first do no harm' by giving us this potent anti-inflammatory drug to add to our seemingly defenceless fight against this new strain.

I fully appreciate the need for a body like SAHPRA- but let's face it Mr President - they are not the most popular organisation amongst lay people and healthcare workers alike at this point.

Asking for doctors to apply for a section 21 per patient while some of us are seeing over 60 covid positive cases per day is nothing short of ridiculous. Have you seen that application form Mr President ? And now SAHPRA wants each submission to be done via their online portal individually. These factors, coupled with a R300 fee per submission is the reason why no doctors will bother. We just DO NOT have the time !

What about that absurd request to do a trial!

- 1 - Ivermectin has been around since 1975
- 2 - it is FDA approved and authorised for human use in many countries around the world
- 3 - 4 countries have now added it to their Covid Treatment protocol
- 4 - ivermectin has won the Nobel prize in medicine
- 5 - most importantly - Mr President - the logistics of running a trial while thousand of people are dying in a week is beyond comprehension. There's no money in running a trial for a refurbished drug, there's no time to sit and fill in forms per person enrolled in a trial - moreover in full PPE. All this after ethics

approval and recruitment etc etc etc

With the black market mushrooming we cannot even dream of doing a placebo controlled trial knowing that candidates who supposed to be on placebo can buy ivermectin from Justin Casey down the road or from his friend - Al Reddy and if they don't have any then Senzo Siza will definitely hook them up.

Mr President - people are dying.

Mr President - families are despondent and hopeless.

Mr President we are exhausted and helpless.

I am by no means calling Ivermectin a 'Miracle drug' - what I am saying is that it is a safe drug - your Urgent Ivermectin Review Committee will attest to that- of that .. I am certain. SAHPRA's first of 3 pillars is SAFETY.

There are hundreds of studies done already and new data is emerging daily showing the promise of ivermectin. Your committee can review all this data which is readily and easily available.

There is no need or time for a formal application at this time.

Respected President - I implore you at this time of need - legalise ivermectin - trust us - the health professionals who are the most vulnerable against this disease - to dispense ivermectin with informed consent. Give us the freedom of choice to take this drug as prophylaxis so that we have a better chance to be around when the vaccine arrives to help roll that out.

Mr President - you have thousands of astute medical minds working tirelessly for months now - spare a few of them for 24hrs to do an urgent review of ivermectin

Unprecedented times call for unprecedented measures.

Give hope back to the people who have loved ones infected knowing that there is something more that can be done to save their infected family members who are lonely and alone in overcrowded hospitals.

Give us, the country's frontline workers and first line of defence - your trust. Armour us with this safe drug so that we know that we are doing everything possible to save our patients lives.

Freedom of choice is a democratic right of the people of South Africa

My name is Dr Naseeba Kathrada - Mr President -

On behalf of all those signed in agreement below

I ... Thank You

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