
MEDIA STATEMENT

17 February 2022

Onderstepoort Biological Products SOC Limited (OBP) has received several queries and concerns from various stakeholders regarding the current operational capabilities of OBP and the dismissal of former management employees including the company's former CEO, Dr. Baptiste Dungu.

In the interest of ethical leadership, accountability, and transparency the OBP wishes to maintain effective stakeholder relations and therefore wishes to respond to the above-mentioned queries as follows:

1. Current Operational Capabilities of OBP

The Board admits there have been production issues that can be attributed to a historical lack of plant maintenance as well as ongoing challenges relating to (among others) interrupted electricity supply and labour issues.

The OBP Board is working closely with Management to ensure processes of maintaining, augmenting, and procuring equipment, the said processes which are planned over the short, medium, and long term.

OBP can further confirm that vaccines currently required by the market are available through the various Retail Outlets and Veterinarians that sell OBP products.

OBP is engaging with key stakeholders to ensure good working relationships are fostered and to better understand the needs of the market, to ensure proper production scheduling and that vaccines will be made available to the market as and when required.

2. Dismissal of former management employees including the company's former CEO-Dr Baptiste Dungu

A further and significant impact that affected the operations of the company was the actions of – and the initial precautionary suspension in April 2021 of the former CEO, Dr Baptiste Dungu as well as the former Manager in the CEO's office, Me. Lindiwe Mabena pending investigations relating to various alleged transgressions including (but not limited to) allowing or instigating irregular procurement procedures, dishonesty and mismanagement in contravention of OBP's policies and the laws of the Republic of South Africa.

The investigation confirmed allegations against the individuals with sufficient evidence and the company proceeded with disciplinary action against both employees. Both Dr. Dungu and Me. Mabena were found guilty of some of the charges brought against them. Dr. Dungu and Me Mabena having been afforded all the opportunities to exhaust all internal processes available to them, were dismissed and their services with the company terminated on the 21st of December 2021.

The Board and Management have worked tirelessly during the past few months to ensure that production functionality, governance, compliance, and labour related matters are adequately and timeously addressed.

We are confident that OBP with strengthened, and sound stakeholder support can manage the challenges ahead and fulfil its mandate as the prime supplier of animal vaccines to the South African market and safeguard the health of the national herd/s.



Me. Rene Kenosi
Chairperson