

18 August 2021

**PANDA KNOWLEDGE FACTORY NPC**

**Registration Number:- 2018/364043/08**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**By email:** - panda@pandata.org

and to: **Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs**

email: [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED]

and to: **Minister of Health**

email: [REDACTED]

Dear Sirs

We refer to the unsigned and undated letter attached to your email of 13 August 2021. It is unclear to us who the author of both the email and attachment is but we respond in good faith notwithstanding.

Thanks for affording us the opportunity to respond to your concerns. You should know that Discovery applies academic rigour in all its endeavours and we welcome opportunities that enable us to confirm the veracity of any information that we make available to members of the public.

We have made our position consistently clear that we unequivocally support the vaccination campaign our country has embarked upon. Our position is buttressed by the promising outcomes experienced in countries who have run successful vaccination programmes. The accumulation of global evidence in this regard, both published and anecdotal, is overwhelming. We maintain that vaccination is the most promising mechanism we have to mitigate and hopefully in due course, bring the pandemic under control and ensure that lives and livelihoods are protected.

Pursuant to your letter, and in the course of our normal business reviews, we have undertaken a further comprehensive review of the information on our website to reverify all data we have displayed and to ensure that everything we have made available is fully substantiated by published evidence. Where evidence is not available, we can and will depend on anecdote to some extent, but we will ensure this is appropriately disclosed and explained.

Whilst addressing your concerns, it is important that we too raise our own concerns. It is our strong contention, aligned to the National Department of Health's public policy, that the government-led Covid-19 public vaccination campaign is the single most important public health initiative of our times. Further to this, we hold the strong view that attempts by any organisation to sow public discord, to spread covid-19 and / or vaccine disinformation and to

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Secretary: N N Mbongo.

discourage public vaccination in any way whatsoever are not only clinically and scientifically incorrect, but are also morally reprehensible in the context of the morbidity and mortality that could occur as a result of consequent vaccine hesitancy. We are advised that in fact any initiatives to discourage vaccinations and / or to spread disinformation in this regard may in fact open-up the proponents of these messages to liability claims for the disease and death that could result.

Notwithstanding our ongoing content reviews, nothing set out herein should be construed to be an admission of any of the allegations you make in your letter under reference and we strictly reserve all our rights.

Yours sincerely,

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**Adrian Gore**  
**Chief Executive Officer**