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Cannabis Development Council of South Africa

10 Mineral Crescent Crown Mines
Johannesburg, 2025
By email: info@nciasa.co.za

Dear Madam Chairperson

RE: CLARIFICATION OF THE HEMP PERMIT PROCESS

Greetings and Happy Friday to all. Thanks for your letter attached.

This is my formal response on the process of the permits:

1. The First batch 2 pager applications for hemp were handed in by 17 November 2018. List of 1st round of 35 Permits were issued 14 December. I published this attached list. These were 35 of the 47 farms that had fences. First health needed 3 signatures per permits to be issued and I consulted Madam Chair (Rozayne) and Mr. Treasurer (Dr. J) and the 3 of us signed 47 forms that had complied. The plan was to distribute permits by 21 December. But due to errors in the permits, the Department of Health said to hold back on the permits until they fix typos. By then I had send picture of first page to 4 of the 35 permit holders as follows: Dr. J in KZN, Ms. Thuli in Mpumalanga, Mr. Dayimani in Eastern Cape and Mr. Verster in Gauteng.
2. Due to strike at Department of Health typos were not fixed by 21 December. On this day department of health indicated that they will not be able to issue the other 12 Of the 47 qualified that had not been issued with permits 14 December. This they said was due to time pressure caused by the strike.
3. Then festive season no one at the Department of Health till January 14th.
4. I checked department of Health on January 14th and I was told permits are to be handled by SAPHRA who was currently moving offices. The proposed that I should check them end January.
5. 17th or 18th January I got a phone call that police had raided McClelland of CDCGP and found 900 high THC plants and that Mr. McClelland claimed he was permitted by CDCSA and presented the hemp permit. DOH asked of the CDCSA to answer the following:
 - a. Can we provide proof that Mr. McClelland was member of CDCSA for all those who got hemp permits applied for by the CDCSA cannot be issued to those who are not members of CDCSA?
 - b. Who verified that McClelland and other farmers were not already farming high THC illegally?
 - c. Did any of the CDCSA officials conduct site visits before submitting the forms?
 - d. What was the CDCSA standard operating procedure to self-regulate and ensure member compliance with permits issued to forms submitted by the CDCSA? How will the CDCSA deal with Mr McClelland and others who may breach the system?



At this point I consulted Madam Chair (Ms. Rozayne) and treasury General (Dr J) and as the CDCSA Exco we decided it may be best to wait until Typos were fixed by Health and then to do site visits to ensure that there is no one take advantage of the CDCSA newly forged relationship with Health. We also agreed that all those who got permits must show their CDCSA membership number. So we decided to wait until the national meeting of the board that was scheduled for 19th and 20th January to report to the CDCSA board on the agenda point PERMITS where each province was to find means to vouch for their members and to decide . The meeting was postponed to 23rd and 24th February 2019.

6. DOH only availed meeting to register typos yesterday 14 February 2019. On this day Department of Health took back the erroneous permits and undertook to fixing typos.
7. After showing the Department of Health the letter from CDCSA Department of Health agreed to meet with the Exco of CDCSA to collect the corrected permits and discuss some of the ways for CDCSA to self regulate in line with department of health guidelines as well as means to mitigate unintended consequences that may arise. This meeting is set up for 22nd 14H00 and will be attended by Dr. J, Madam Rozayne and myself as the exco of CDCSA.

That is the extent to which CDCSA Treasury and Chair were involved. They signed the evaluation forms and they agreed with my proposal not to circulate the permits until after the board meeting and the site visits. They were not involved in any decision making about permits. Nor were they involved in communication with department of health.

The House of Hemp team (my PA, Dalu, Mbulelo and Mxolisi) was involved only through giving me administrative support as they collected the forms and put them in my desk. And then phoned the people to ask for more information. The House of Hemp team were not involved in any decision making about permits. Nor were they involved in communication with department of health.

Even in my case I NEVER took any decisions about the permits, I presented the forms that were collected to department of Health as per our agreement on the 11 October 2018. Then Health responded and gave me a list of permits issued, then Health told me to hold the distribution until they fixed typos, then I called Health officials at all the times they told me to call. Health told me to wait until they were able to make time due to abnormal occurrences happening in their department like the strike, festive season disruptions and moving offices.





I will prepare a full report to the forthcoming CDCSA board meeting and I will answer all questions and receive critiques. I look upon the board to take decision on pertinent questions around the hemp permits including:

- Process of application does the CDCSA have the administrative capacity to collect forms? How is the provincial structures and IKS desks functioning in terms of collecting and recording forms?
- Process of site inspection and verification (case study how does Mr. McClelland cultivate high THC plants with hemp permit?)
- Organizational policy to accompany the successful awarding of permits.
- Process of ensuring compliance (case study how does Mr. Dayimani permit reach the hands of Ms Moleboheng?)
- Transparency?
- Accountability?
- Communication?
- DC and mitigation of unintended consequences?
- Protecting the CDCSA reputation in case of the lawless?
- Process and protocols of regulating hemp permits?
- Who qualifies for IKS High THC permits that the CDCSA is trying to organize for IKS communities?

Kindly find attached herewith:

- The complete list of all the forms that were received from the November applications. These are the permits issued but not distributed.
- The list of the second batch of all the hemp forms that were received during December 2018. These were handed in December 2018.
- The list of the third batch of all the hemp forms that were received during January 2018. These were handed in yesterday since we were not able to see Health since December.
- The list of the IKS forms that the House of Hemp office has been receiving. Please note these forms have not been handed in to SAHPRA yet, the CDCSA must collect all IKS forms then hand them to ARC who will submit and motivate IKS high THC 2ha trials on behalf of the partnership.

That is the narrative which I hope gives sought clarity. I hope those confused will be clearer and those resentful will be content.

I am instructing the House of Hemp office to stop doing any works on the CDCSA hemp permits until the CDCSA board and executives meet on the 23 and 24 February 2019. I propose that all forms must be sent to their province CDCSA office and let the CDCSA come with them to the board meeting.

Yours Sincerely



Thandeka Ruth Kunene
Chief Executive Officer (House of Hemp) and Secretary General (CDCSA)