

Media release - Innovative Pharmaceutical Association of SA (IPASA)

Healthcare industry must work together.

Wednesday, 8 April 2015

Dr Konji Sebati, CEO for the Innovative Pharmaceutical Association of SA (IPASA), has urged members of the healthcare industry to set aside their differences in order to work together for the benefit of all South Africans. "The finger-pointing and blaming among stakeholders within the private healthcare sector needs to stop," she says.

More recently, Dr Bobby Ramasia, principal executive officer of Bonita's Medical Fund, commented that the 'misalignment' of healthcare stakeholders' agendas is a major private healthcare cost driver. He too called for an end to the finger-pointing which was dominated the healthcare industry.

Sebati says IPASA - which represents 25 research-based pharmaceutical companies active in South Africa - believes if other healthcare stakeholders shared Ramasia's view, the private healthcare sector would be more robust and better positioned to assist Government in its drive to improve the country's healthcare system.

"The concerns of both the public and private healthcare sectors need to be collectively addressed, including those relating to private healthcare cost escalations, if we are ever to find sustainable solutions that would enable increased access to quality healthcare" says Sebati.

The Competition Commission Inquiry into Health, which is currently underway, was set in motion by the Minister of Health to establish, among others, cost drivers in the private healthcare sector.

Sebati says IPASA welcomes the Competition Commission Inquiry into Health as the outcome of the Inquiry should reveal the true cost drivers in the private healthcare system. "Hopefully, this should end the fragmentation in the healthcare industry and enable us to move forward positively; building a solid foundation for our nation's healthcare system into the future," she says.

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About The Innovative Pharmaceutical Association South Africa (IPASA)

The Innovative Pharmaceutical Association South Africa (IPASA) was established in April 2013. IPASA was formed from a desire for a credible, respected Association to engage with stakeholders in both the private and public sectors. IPASA comprises of 25 pharmaceutical companies that are research based.

IPASA aims to be an Association that focuses on building an environment for sustainable access to innovative research-based healthcare.