

PO Box 914, Lanseria, Jhb, South Africa, 1748  
063 174 0938 (emergencies only)  
www.fieldsofgreenforall.org.za

Dear Ms Shumane and the National Cannabis Master Plan Development Steering Committee,

Request for information regarding the work of the Steering Committee.

Your email dated 15 September 2023 refers.

According to your correspondence, the Steering Committee was formed during September 2023. Together with the announcement of the various members, you indicated that

*"We will rely on these Social Partners to report back to the multiple constituencies, as far as is possible, as a means to support active communication and participation in the Master Plan Development process."*

To date we have received no such feedback despite knowing that the SteerCo held a meeting on 12 September 2024.

During the nominations process Dr Motheo Koitsiwe requested a scope for the proposed SteerCo and timeframes for the above. You provided a clear and detailed reply. With regards the duration, your information stated that *"As a new structure, SteerCo will be constituted for a year to support the accelerated development and implementation of the Cannabis Masterplan. Updated arrangements, which will include revised terms of engagement will be updated after its first year."*

The duration of the mandate of the SteerCo is, according to the above, over. Will stakeholders now be provided with revised terms of engagement and will the SteerCo comprise the same members?

Here at Fields of Green for ALL we acknowledge the enormity of the task before the SteerCo. However, as active participants at the Phakisa Action lab in May 2023 and having come away from that event with renewed hope for our valuable Cannabis "Sunrise Sector", we are disappointed that no progress has been reported from the very body that has been tasked with doing so.



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Again, as per your email to the whole stakeholder group, the purpose and objectives were clearly outlined (quoted):

- *To receive reports from the Secretariat on the implementation of the Masterplan and decisions of the Phakisa.*
- *To receive reports of the content, implementation and progress of the detailed, time bound and assigned activities of a Programme of Action (POA) by the Secretariat. This should include information with respect to areas where progress is not being achieved; implementation bottlenecks and proposed measures to secure corrective actions.*
- *To provide input from the Social Partners regarding Masterplan, Phakisa and PoA design and implementation and a 'feedback loop' from government to Social Partners.*
- *To secure reciprocal commitments from the Social Partners for defined, practical implementation programmes and projects.*

Fields of Green for ALL NPC, established in 2013 as evidence provider for “the Trial of the Plant” (rendered part heard in 2017), is a civil society organisation committed to ensuring ALL South Africans have the Human and Constitutional Right to use, possess, cultivate and trade in Cannabis. Our commitment to evidence-based legal regulation over the last 14 years has been unwavering. We have been [granted special consultative status](#) at the United Nations Economic and Social Council through our last 8 years of work with grass roots Cannabis Activism at an international level. We are founding members of the [Cannabis Embassy](#), an international horizontal advocacy project comprising organisations from around the world campaigning for an end to Cannabis prohibition.

In light of the third bullet point above, Fields of Green for ALL has always been a committed Social Partner and our Mission and Vision reflect this. Please see [our website](#) for further information. We are funded entirely by the South African Cannabis community and as such have a broad constituency supporting our Strategic Litigation, Social Education and drug policy work. Central to this is our commitment to stopping the continued unconstitutional arrest, incarceration and traumatisation of our community by the South African Police Service.

We offer to “fulfil reciprocal commitments” and share our practical experience and projects, should we be given the opportunity to do so.



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Following the lack of communication, as undertaken in the above correspondence, we request clarification on progress made over the last year. We have a responsibility to our constituency, and we have nothing to report in terms of concrete progress towards a sustainable sector. As a responsible civil society organisation of long standing, we are here to hold our government and their appointed committees to account. That is our unwavering mission and Constitutional right.

Looking forward to your reply.

Regards

Myrtle Clarke

Wesley Young

Ami Heystek

(Directors)

and Fields of Green for ALL Team, Affiliate Companies, Organisations & Members

