

Bayer response re alleged advocacy campaign by Innovative Pharmaceutical Association of South Africa (IPASA) opposing South Africa's efforts to introduce intellectual property reforms aimed at increasing access to essential medicine:

18 February 2014

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited Bayer to respond to the following items:

- "South African pharma firms accused of delaying patents law reforms", Guardian [UK], 17 January 2014
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jan/17/south-african-pharma-accused-delay-patents-law-reform>
- "New leaked Merck missive reveals deep drug, medical device company opposition to South African patent reforms", KEI, 20 January 2014
<http://keionline.org/node/1908>
- "'Genocidal' drug patent plot angers doctors, rights groups"
<http://www.timeslive.co.za/politics/2014/01/17/genocidal-drug-patent-plot-outrages-doctors-rights-groups>
- "Leaked pharmagate emails prove big pharma involvement in scandal"
<http://www.tac.org.za/news/leaked-pharmagate-emails-prove-big-pharma-involvement-scandal>
- "TAC, Section27 and MSF react to Pharmagate"
<http://www.fixthepatentlaws.org/?p=823>

Comment to Business & Human Rights Resource Centre by Bayer re alleged advocacy campaign by Innovative Pharmaceutical Association of South Africa (IPASA) to oppose South Africa's efforts to introduce intellectual property reforms aimed at increasing access to essential medicine:

Bayer HealthCare was not involved in the development of the proposal submitted by PAE to IPASA. We did not support it, and fully agree with the IPASA Board's decision to reject it. We support the position paper on the draft IP Proposal submitted by IPASA last year, which is publicly available.

A strong IP system plays an essential role in the Research and Development of new medicines, and we are committed to an open and transparent dialogue with all relevant stakeholders as the Government continues working towards a new IP law for South Africa.