



SAGMA

Access to affordable quality medicines

Southern
African
Generic
Medicines
Association

25 April 2012

A LETTER FROM EMMANUEL MUJURU CHAIRPERSON OF SAGMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear SAGMA Member

SAGMA had its Annual General Meeting on 21 March 2012 in Gaborone, Botswana and it seems to be a good opportunity to report on progress in the last 3 months and to also update members on the outcomes of the AGM.

Incoming Board Members

For SAGMA to be able to deliver on its vision at the same time providing appropriate membership benefits, it requires the experience of the entire spectrum of the pharmaceutical private sector in the SADC region.

The term of office of the outgoing Board came to an end at the AGM. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Board, which also happens to be the inaugural Board of SAGMA, for their leadership and direction in ensuring that the critical foundation was in place.

Following the nomination and election process as communicated to members, I am pleased to announce the following Board members for the period 2012 to 2014:

- Emmanuel Mujuru, Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, Zimbabwe – SAGMA Chairperson
- Scott Senwelo, Pharmaceutical Society of Botswana, Botswana – SAGMA Vice-Chairperson
- Lisa Ramakrishnan, Vantage Health, Tanzania – SAGMA Treasurer
- Gertrude Mothibe, Pharm Legacy, Lesotho – SAGMA Secretary
- George Proctor, Gemi Pharmacure, Botswana
- Muhammad Bodhania, National Association of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers, Zambia
- Stanley Banda, Mchepa Chemicals, Swaziland
- Chris Chitemerere, Stratdigm Consultancy, Zimbabwe

As the incoming Chairperson I look forward to working with the Board and to serving the SAGMA membership for the development of the pharmaceutical private sector, both wholesale and manufacturing.

Audited Financials

The Annual General meeting approved the audited financials for 2011. The meeting also approved the appointment of Nambe Financials as auditors for 2012.

Membership Fees for 2012

In line with the SAGMA Constitution, the proposed membership fee for 2012 was tabled at the Annual General Meeting for approval by the membership. The pros and cons of accepting the recommended fee were extensively discussed. In conclusion the members took a decision to increase the fee from the proposed rate. The Members took note of the following:

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Board Members: Emmanuel Mujuru (Chair, Zimbabwe), Scott Senwelo (Vice-Chairperson, Botswana) Lisa Ramakrishnan (Treasurer, Tanzania) Gertrude Mothibe (Secretary, Lesotho), George Proctor (Botswana), Muhammad Bodhania (South Africa); Stanley Banda (Swaziland), Chris Chitemerere (Zimbabwe)

- Income from the membership fee was critical for the Association if it was to reach some level of financial sustainability. With the reduced fee, the Association would not be able to cover most of the office operational costs in 2012; and
- There was no proof or guarantee that a reduced rate would enable the association to attract new members;

In conclusion the meeting finalised the 2012 membership fees will be as follows:

- **Ordinary members: US\$1000.00**
- **Associate members: US\$500.00**

The AGM also concluded that National Associations fall into the Ordinary membership category and therefore would be expected to pay the Ordinary member fee. The meeting also concluded that in future National Associations were entitled to only one membership point.

Revised invoices will be issued in the coming weeks. I would also like to take this opportunity to appeal to members to honour their membership dues in time as delayed payments will have an adverse effect on the cashflow of the Association. This is more critical in 2012, as UNIDO will not be covering the office operational expenses.

As indicated I would also like to take this opportunity to update you on some of the activities in the past 3 months and what you can look forward to in the coming 3 months:

Increasing value through membership

SAGMA is a membership based organisation. The more members SAGMA has, the more value it starts to realise, both in financial sustainability and to be recognised as the legitimate voice of the pharmaceutical association in the region. The Board will be engaging in the coming weeks with the process of being formally recognised by SADC.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome the following new members, which effectively brought our membership number to 19:

- Vantage Health from Tanzania (Ordinary Membership)
- Skhumbuzo Ngozwana from South Africa (Associate membership)
- DMPK International from South Africa (Associate membership)

I am also pleased to inform you that at the next meeting, the SAGMA Board will be engaging with new applications.

It is critical that SAGMA has both country representation and sectoral representation in its membership. Currently we have membership from 9 countries out of 15 countries; and 10 manufacturers, 1 wholesaler; 1 professional body, 3 national association representing manufacturers, and 4 consultants.

The focus in the coming months is to increase the membership and ensure that we have more than two thirds of the SADC countries represented in membership. I would like to request all members to assist in identifying potential members and forwarding their details to Tsungi Moyo.

Realising the SAGMA Vision through Advocacy and Programme Work

The outgoing Board approved an operational plan to guide the work of the Association in 2012. At the inaugural meeting of the incoming board in March 2012, the Board requested that they be given an opportunity to re-engage with the identified priorities. It is planned that the finalised operational plan will be circulated to members beginning of May 2012.

As you are all aware some activities have taken place in the past 3 months and all of them have contributed towards raising the profile of the Association and to attract new members. These activities have included:

- Registration Harmonisation Workshop in Gaborone Botswana: through support from UNIDO, SAGMA successfully convened the workshop on 21 – 22 March. A document was presented at the meeting that gave background to the process to date and proposed way forward in terms of

the private sector position. The workshop enabled the sector to engage with some of these recommendations and suggest ways to strengthen them. The SAGMA Board will in the coming weeks finalise the recommendations; way forward and the composition of the reference group. The final document will also be circulated to all members in the coming weeks.

- Delegates at the workshop also had the opportunity to engage with the SARPAM's work relating to the recently established Africa Medicines Impact Investment Fund (**amiif**). More information will be made available to members on the SAGMA website and the newsletter;
- The USP / USAID / WHO workshop focusing on GMP WHO-Prequalification for TB medicines was successfully held in Johannesburg on 28 – 29 March 2012. The delegates had the opportunity to engage with the process of getting WHO Prequalification for TB medicines. USP also announced details about the special programme they have put in place to assist companies interested in pursuing this. More information is available on their website, www.usp.com and a special article will be featured in our newsletter. Discussions are currently underway to identify other services that SAGMA can jointly offer with USP in the coming months. More information will be made available in due course;
- To ensure that the programmes we identify in support of the Capacity Development Programmes are addressing a need, we will be circulating a questionnaire mid-May for members to indicate their needs and constraints in participating in such programmes. I would like to appeal to all members to complete the questionnaire. In the meantime, SAGMA is continuing engaging with potential partners to finalise training programmes for the rest of the year. More information will be shared with members in the coming months in this regard;
- SAGMA continues to gain momentum and recognition as a representative body in the region as demonstrated by the increased request both from the media and representation at meetings. For the period January to March the following activities were undertaken:
 - Invitation to the SAGMA Chairperson to attend an EC (European Commission) preliminary capacity building workshop in Brussels to engage with increasing local access to pharmaceutical drugs in Africa through the capacitation and promotion of the local manufacturing and distribution industries in Africa. The delegates are now waiting for questionnaires which will form the basis for engagement;
 - Invitation to attend the official launch of the East Africa Harmonisation Project in Arusha, 29th - 30th of March 2012;
 - The SAGMA Chairperson invited to part of the Advisory Committee of the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (AMRH). Inaugural meeting of the Committee took place in Arusha on 30 March 2012;
 - SAGMA was represented by its Board Member, Chris Chitemerere at the 4th Meeting of the Technical Committee on the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa due to take place from 14-15 December 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Committee engaged with the inception document of the Pharmaceutical manufacturer Plan of Africa's Business Plan. A follow up meeting is planned for the first week of May and SAGMA is expected to also attend the meeting; and
 - SAGMA Chairperson gave input into an article by the Economist Intelligence Unit, on "The future of healthcare in Africa";
- There has been some delay in launching the revised SAGMA website and newsletter. It is planned that the new website will be ready early May, whilst the newsletter will be ready end of May. In the meantime I would like to encourage all members to take advantage of the discounted rates to advertise in the newsletter and website as this is also a critical source of income for the Association. I trust most of you have found the weekly news roundup through Pharma News helpful and informative;
- Some of you would remember that at the UNIDO/GIZ Local Production conference in April 2011, there was decision by the 3 regional associations in attendance, namely Federation of Eastern African Pharmaceutical Manufacturers (FEAPM), West African Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (WAPMA) and SAGMA to explore the possibility of setting up a **Federation of African Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations (FAPMA)**. The process is gaining

momentum with a draft constitution being finalised for the Federation's consideration. Through the Federation, members will be able to address the common challenges faced by the industry and enhance opportunities through advocacy. This is more critical at this point in time as we are nearing the finalisation of the business plan for the realisation of the PMPA. I look forward to sharing more information on this great initiative in the coming months.

I would like to share the following forthcoming events for your information

- The multi-stage process in finalising the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Plan of Africa Business Plan will include the following consultative engagements:
 - 3-4 May 2012: 5th Technical Committee Meeting in Addis. SAGMA has been invited to be part of this meeting;
 - 19 May 2012: Conference of African Ministers of Health CAMH in Geneva;
 - 16-20 July 2012: Heads of State Meeting in Lilongwe for final endorsement;
- UNIDO and AU will be hosting a Conference on Economic Diversification and Manufacturing in Africa: Investment opportunities in pharmaceutical and agribusiness, 4-5 June 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. SAGMA has forwarded a list of pharmaceutical manufacturers in the region to UNIDO – invitations will be sent out in the coming weeks; and
- The St Lukes Foundation will be running a 3 day course on tablet coating in Tanzania, 6 – 8 June 2012. For more information, please contact Mr. Loti Kingori on e-mail: lotikingori@yahoo.com or Mobile: +255 (0) 754 758 222.

I would like to thank our strategic partner UNIDO for their continued support in the past few months. It's through their financial support that SAGMA was able to convene the workshop in Botswana. I am also happy to inform you that UNIDO has indicated that will extend the Project Associate's contract till August 2012, with a further extension to February 2013. The Project Associate is a critical resource in ensuring that the Association activities are undertaken.

I would also like to thank the members and Board that have made themselves available to provide strategic support in ensuring that SAGMA programmes are appropriately undertaken. I would like to appeal to all members to make themselves available to contribute towards giving effect to the SAGMA vision. We plan to set up a number of committees and we trust you will nominate your appropriately qualified staff members to serve on such committees.

Whilst SAGMA still has some challenges, the important groundwork is in place that enables the Association to continue to advocate on behalf of members on a number of important policy issues, bring even more benefits and events to you – the Members.

I look forward to engaging with you individually and collectively on the challenges and opportunities before the Association. Please feel free to contact me on sagma@sagma.net and mujpfive@mweb.co.zw

Yours sincerely



Emmanuel Mujuru
SAGMA Chairperson