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Court bans popular pain drug?

The Medicines Control Council (MCC) obtained an urgent court order on Monday to stop the continued sale of potentially deadly medicines (November 14). The MCC, Registrar of Medicines, health minister as well as the director general of health launched this application at the High Court in Pretoria. They asked for a settlement order between them and Adcock Ingram, granted by the court in October this year to be rescinded. The agreement allowed Adcock to

continue selling the medicines Synap Forte, Lentogesic and Doxyfene which contain dextropropoxyphene (DPP). In the meantime, the MCC has withdrawn the registration of DPP-containing medicines. The applicants contended the State attorney and Counsel instructed by it had settled the case without any authorisation, without their approval and contrary to the public interest. However, in April this year, the council withdrew the registration of DPP-containing medicines, following in

the footsteps of five other countries including the USA and United Kingdom. According to its experts, the medicines that were to a large extent used by the elderly, contained risks of toxicity and heart attacks. Health professionals were given three months to wean patients off the medicines. Adcock Ingram lodged an appeal against the council's decision and asked the health minister to appoint an appeal committee to hear further expert evidence. Judge Eberhard Bertelsmann set aside the settlement order and dismissed Adcock Ingram's application to allow it to continue selling the medicines pending the outcome of their appeal. However, Gilbert Marcus SC, for the applicants, argued that the medicines generated an annual turn-

over of R182 million for the pharmaceutical company. "One cannot take chances with lives in the face of the evidence. Profits loom large in this matter," he said. Marcus referred to a statement by the European Medical Agency indicating that the difference between the dose needed for treating a patient and an overdose was very small. Ben Bredenkamp, for Adcock Ingram, argued that the applicants had discussed and were aware of the settlement agreement. He said they were jumping the gun and that another two months before the appeal was heard "would not make that much of a difference", as the medicines had been sold without apparent negative effect for eight years.

25 Tender Irregularities R93.5m Road-Rehabilitation Tender

Koster/ Lichtenburg – In a statement delivered by North West Premier Thandi Modise on Friday, November 11, addressing the latest update of this highly controversial tender-related issue she said, "... 25 irregularities have been found in the awarding of a R93.5 million road-rehabilitation tender with Down Touch Investments." "In the first case, Down Touch Investments should have been eliminated from the tender for non-compliance with tender rules set by the depart-

ment," she said in a statement. What's more, "The department should (also) not have awarded to Down Touch Investment the tender over non-completion of the tender documents." Furthermore, it was also found that other suitable tenders were incorrectly excluded or eliminated. Modise said the extension of the closing date for submissions was also incorrectly carried out and not sufficiently communicated to all bidding companies. In investigations, independent engi-

neering firm, Nyeleti, investigated the tender awarded to the company on fairness, transparency and cost effectiveness. Construction work on the P34/2 xc roads was suspended at the start of October when Globul Roads, another bidder, challenged the tender allocation on the basis that it was the more favourable candidate. The company sought a court interdict to stop construction. Modise halted the project and suspended acting provincial roads and transport department head Sandile Mbanjwa. He remained on suspension pending a full investigation into

whether he illegally awarded the tender. In the meantime, Down Touch Investments sought a court interdict against Modise's intervention, but it was dismissed with costs. The North West executive council said it would review the appointment of Down Touch Investments and consider the possible termination of the tender contract. It would also conduct internal investigations to discipline other officials found guilty of improper conduct. "We shall take all the necessary action without fear, favour or prejudice," Modise said.

Carols under the Stars



Rustenburg – Sunday the 27th November is the first Sunday in Advent. Advent is a time of waiting and preparation before celebrating the nativity (birth) of Jesus. At the Rustenburg Methodist Church, the season of Advent is marked by hosting the annual "Carols under the Stars" evening. This an evening where families and friends from all denominations get together in the church garden to take time out from the humdrum of life which is indicative of the so-called silly season. Here we spend time together listening to God's promise of new life, singing about His Son coming to earth in the human form and sometimes just getting new perspective of what this time of year should be all

about. Be part of this festive occasion! The evening will start at 17h30 with a picnic. So, bring along your blankets, chairs and picnic baskets to enjoy some time in fellowship with friends and family. Then from about 18h00 we will clear our throats and start singing all those favourite Christmas carols and who knows... we might even learn some new songs. It will get dark, so please don't forget your candles and torches. The Rustenburg Methodist Church is situated in Brink Street where there is secure parking for your vehicles. If you would like any more information, please call the church office at 014-5971316 or have a look at the website rtbmeth@mweb.co.za.

Hospitality

Contact us: Tel: 014 592 9677
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NAVRAE: 0861 55 22 88
Maandag 21 November 2011 @ 11:00
RHENOSTERFONTEIN PLAAS, KAALLAAGTE / Ventersdorp RD, KOSTER

171.3064 Ha Plaas

- Groot besigheids potensiaal
- Baie Water
- Luukse Woonenheid

10% DEP Op Val Van die hamer - Reserwe prys van toepassing
TERME EN VOORWAARDES VAN TOEPASSING - Besigtig op webwerf FICA VOLDOENING - Oorspronklike Dokumente