



EFF STATEMENT ON REPORTS OF ALLEGED REFUSAL OF MAKING COVID19 VACCINES AVAILABLE BY SOME AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS

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The EFF notes with dismay the blatant refusal of some governments of African Union member states, and in particular, the government of Tanzania, to procure and receive COVID19 vaccines and opting for alternative remedies. As much as the EFF is in support of traditional medicines, these must have been found to be effective against the virus. For some health ministers and their governments to promote herbal concoctions including ginger, lemon, garlic and herbs as a cure to the virus at the exclusion of vaccine is misleading and putting the lives of people of Africa in danger.

We recall that some governments returned Coronavirus test kits as faulty after testing them on goats and paw paws and stopped reporting COVID19 cases. With due respect to the sovereignty of AU member states, EFF calls upon the governments of African countries to come to their senses and respect science.

COVID19 has taken the lives of more than 93 751 people in the African continent as of the 4th February 2021 and an estimate of 54 504 deaths in the Southern African Development Community region. This is a clear indication that the region of SADC is the most affected by this virus and these deaths highlight the poor quality and lack thereof of the SADC health infrastructure systems.

The African Union Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and SADC leadership needs to engage these recalcitrant governments to respect democracy and allow citizens the freedom to make their own decision on receiving the vaccine and not opposing their choices. The stance taken by these governments can place the whole continent in danger of continuous infections, thus affecting the continents economy further due to continuous infections. As countries keep highlighting that for countries to be safe from COVID19, more than 70% of the population must be vaccinated, this must be applicable to African regions.

The reckless decisions of some governments to refuse vaccines should be condemned with the contempt it deserves.

ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

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