



Press Release

### **OBP appoints new CEO**

*New CE to strengthen operations and continued global expansion*

Newly appointed CEO at Onderstepoort Biological Products (OBP), Dr Baptiste (Baty) Dungu, will officially take office on 1 March 2019, following an extensive search by the company to appoint a new CEO.

According to board chairperson, Tshililo Ramabulana, the OBP has been searching for the perfect candidate who understands the needs of the local industry, while complementing the company's international expansion plans.

"It was always going to be a protracted process because we needed to exhaust all options in order to find the correct candidate. The company is on an expansion mission so the perfect candidate needed to have a global outlook and experience, while also understanding the local market very well," says Ramabulana.

Dr Dungu is not new to the OBP. He is a former general manager, chief operations officer and chief operations scientist at the OBP.

"He left us several years ago to occupy key senior positions in various countries including Morocco, the UK and most recently in France, where he has been working as Vice-President of the Organisation International Epizootics (OIE) Scientific Commission, among other things. This international experience will be a key component for the OBP's international expansion plans," says Ramabulana.

The OBP has been undergoing a crucial period of restructuring and modernising, particularly their GMP plant. Since 2017, there has been a vast investment into rebuilding the plant, bringing in new equipment, recruiting and training competent staff.

The company says that this will help them stay at the cutting edge of international standards and optimise operations and value-add to customers.

"Dr Dungu comes in at a crucial point when good, experienced leadership is required to match the infrastructural investments we have made at OBP. He joins a very enthusiastic and capable team of scientists and executives and, as the Board and stakeholders, we have all the confidence in his abilities and guarantee our support," concludes Ramabulana.

**ENDS**

## **BIOGRAPHY OF DR BAPTISTE DUNGU**

Dr Dungu is a South African veterinarian, with a PhD in vaccinology (University of Pretoria), and business managerial training (UNISA), currently Head of Strategy and Business Development for MCI Santé Animale, the largest African biopharmaceutical company, and also Vice-president of the Scientific Commission of the World Organisation for animal health (OIE), B Dungu has more than 25 years of national and international experience in vaccine research, development, manufacturing and commercialisation.

From 1992 to 2001 he worked at the ARC-Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (ARC-OVI) in different capacities, first as a researcher, then as head of the Foot and Mouth (FMD) vaccine development and production division.

He joined Onderstepoort Biological Products (OBP) in 2002 where he oversaw Operations, production and product development (General Manager, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Scientific officer).

He moved to Edinburgh, Scotland (UK), where he lives now, in 2008 after being offered the position of Senior Director R&D for the Global Alliance for Veterinary Medicines (GALVmed), working with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the British development agency DFID. During his tenure at GALVmed he was in charge of program development and scientific strategic direction of the organisation. He oversaw product development activities and building international partnerships, which included the management of a pipeline portfolio of 24 products (vaccine, drugs and diagnostic tests), through partnerships with more than 50 institutions around the world, including research, academic, multinationals companies, pharmaceutical and international organisations.

Since 2014 he has been heading strategy and business development for MCI Sante Animale (Morocco), the largest fully GMP vaccine and pharmaceutical manufacturing company in Africa, which develop and commercialises its products in different continents.

With his current tenure as Vice-president of the OIE Scientific commission (Paris-France), Dr. Dungu is involved in several ad hoc groups looking into different animal health issues and working with different global partners.

Dr. Dungu is also board member of the International Veterinary Vaccinology Network (IVVN) and is involved in several African and international structures.

Over the past 15 years, Dr. Dungu has conducted consultancies in more than 30 African, Asian and American countries for different international organizations and agencies. Dr. Dungu has more than 30 peer-reviewed scientific publications, a patent filed in South Africa, book chapters and more than 70 congress contributions and other technical publications.