

# The Pharmacist and the Legislator – lessons learnt

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# Pharmacist as a Socioeconomist

- \* Nelson Mandela Lecture 2009
- \* Mahummad Yunus
- \* Social Entrepreneur – Socio Economist
- \* Banker to the poor
- \* Grameen Bank
- \* What about a Pharmacist

# Pharmacist as a Socio economist

- \* Socio economist by choice or by trade
- \* Socio economist Pharmacist at all sectors
- \* Hospital, Retail and manufacturing
- \* Imparting Skills to your Assistants
- \* Training your Assistant on the job without compensation

# Pharmacist as a Socio Economist

- \* Retail level, give advise without charging
- \* First hand experience in Brits
- \* Patient consults the Doctor and receives Madicine
- \* Does not Trust the Doctor and go to the Pharmacy
- \* Get free advise and assurance
- \* Goes home happy
- \* The Pharmacist is a perpetual Socio economist is it by choice or by design through the Legislator

# Pharmacist and the Legislator

- \* What is the relationship between the Pharmacist and the legislator
- \* Does the Pharmacist engage the legislator
- \* Should a Pharmacist have a relationship with the legislator
- \* Politics are our life, they are our profession
- \* Politicians controls how we practice our profession hence we must tell them how we want to practice it.

# Pharmacist and the Legislator

- \* The legislator should be close to us
- \* The legislator should be our friend
- \* We need to influence the thinking of the legislator
- \* Our Pharmacy Organizations should have the legislator very close to our executive
- \* Our conferences should have the legislator present to hear our concerns, our mind, our discussions and our fears

# Pharmacist and the Legislator

- \* The legislator should be bombarded
- \* We as a profession need to know what the legislator is thinking
- \* We need an ear at all the levels of the legislator from the Portfolio committees on health to the provincial department right down to the municipal level
- \* We need to engage the minister at least twice a year
- \* We need to constantly engage the departmental officers
- \* The branches of the organization (PSB) should engage the provincial authorities and have a close working relationship with them

# Lobbying

- \* Central to the functions of the organization
- \* We need to have a constant portfolio on Lobbying at national executive level
- \* The Chief Lobbyist must be part of the EXCO
- \* The Portfolio of Lobbying must be well resourced in order to perform any duty to the maximum level possible
- \* The key income or revenue streams of the profession can be cut in to half by the legislator through a stroke of a pen if we are far from the legislator



# Lessons Learned

- \* We saw in SA the legislator
- \* Opening ownership to lay owners
- \* Introducing the new pricing structure- SEP
- \* The reimbursement structure of the pharmacist got regulated- to the distaste of the Pharmacist
- \* Dispensing licenses for GP's
- \* In a process of regulating the logistic fees for the Pharmaceutical wholesalers

# Lessons learned

- \* Introduction of the NHI
- \* The role of the Pharmacist in the new structure of delivery of healthcare in the country- The profession must be close to the legislator here in order to influence the role which the Pharmacist will play
- \* ICPA we have a portfolio on Lobbying and Government relations at national board level

# Lessons learned

- \* This portfolio is the most funded portfolio in ICPA today
- \* The only portfolio in ICPA with “ring fenced funds” !  
A war chest
- \* A directive went from the board to the branches/RBC's to meet their Provincial MEC's. To be close to the Provincial department and form a close working relationship at that level

# Lessons Learned NCPA

- \* A dedicated legislative conference
- \* “Key members of the senate and house of representatives as well as government officials and political Insiders will be in attendance”
- \* We need to make sure that the leadership in Washington DC hears the voice of Independent pharmacy

# Lessons learned - NCPA

- \* NCPA committee on national legislation and government affairs
- \* The chair of this committee serves as one of the Vice Presidents, sitting in the national executive
- \* This portfolio has eleven staff members on full time employment
- \* NCPA takes this portfolio very seriously and this is evident by the existence of vibrant community Pharmacy sector in the US

# Lessons Learned AU Guild

- \* Federal elections 2013, the Pharmacy Guild will be conveying the merits and benefits of community Pharmacy model in Australia to politicians of all sides
- \* They galvanize the support of the politicians even before they assume office to ensure that the Interest of the Pharmacist remains protected
- \* New political office, new legislations which can adversely affect your profession.

# Conclusion

- \* “To Indulge in irresponsible criticism in private instead of actively putting forward one’s suggestions to the organization”
- \* Mao Tse Tung!
  - \* I thank You !