TMDA
Tanzania Medicines & Medical Devices Authority

Newsletter

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20th TMDA
Tanzania Medicines & Medical Device Authority

TMDA : AN EXPEDITION TOWARDS EXCELLENCE 2003 - 2023

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TMDA
Tanzania Medicines & Medical Devices Authority

Welcome note from the Director General

Dkt. Adam M. Fimbo (PhD)

Welcome to the 13th Edition of our Newsletter!

WE are delighted to present another edition brimming with insightful information, reflecting our ongoing commitment to ensuring the quality, safety, and efficacy of medicines, medical devices, and diagnostics in Tanzania. As we mark the 20th anniversary of our establishment, we take pride in our journey of successful regulations and transformative endeavors since our inception in 2003.

In this edition, we delve into various topics of significance, ranging from TMDA's 20 years of successful operations to parliamentary committee visits, accolades, and initiatives aimed at enhancing accountability and excellence in our services. From the launch of the Ministerial Advisory Board (MAB) to recognition for best media relations and compliance to eGA regulations, each article underscores our dedication to serving the public interest.

Moreover, we shed light on critical issues such as laboratory accreditation, safety concerns, waste management, and rational medicine usage, emphasizing our holistic approach to healthcare governance. Through scientific publications and constructive dialogues, we aim to foster informed decision-making and advance public health outcomes across the nation.

At TMDA, we recognize the pivotal role of accountability, professionalism, and collaboration in achieving our objectives. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our fellow Tanzanians for their trust, cooperation, and unwavering support, which continually inspire us to uphold the highest standards of service delivery.

As we navigate the dynamic landscape of healthcare regulation, we remain steadfast in our commitment to vigilance, post-marketing surveillance, and continuous improvement. We applaud President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan for her visionary leadership and tireless dedication to serving our nation, and we express our best wishes for her ongoing endeavors.

To our esteemed readers, we invite you to immerse yourselves in the diverse array of topics presented in this edition, as we strive to provide you with valuable insights into TMDA's role and contributions to the welfare of our country.

Thank you for your continued interest and support.
Enjoy reading your Newsletter!

Dr. Adam M. Fimbo (PhD)
Director General

Editorial Note

Gaudensia Simwanza

Dear Esteemed Reader,

IN this 13th edition of the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) Newsletter, we celebrate a significant milestone in the Authority's journey. As we commemorate 20 years of dedicated service since our establishment in 2003, we reflect on the remarkable achievements that have shaped our route.

Foremost among these achievements is the accreditation of TMDA's Medical Devices Testing Laboratory by SADCAS ISO/IEC 17025:2017. This accreditation, received on 18th of March 2024, underscores our unwavering commitment to upholding the highest standards of quality assurance in the realm of medical devices. It stands as a testament to the rigorous inspection and dedication of our team, ensuring that our regulatory decisions are grounded in sound science.

Central to our success has been the exemplary leadership of Dr. Adam Fimbo, our Director General, whose vision and guidance have propelled TMDA to new heights. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Fimbo on the attainment of his PhD Degree in Pharmacovigilance of Ivermectin and Albendazole. His expanded expertise promises to enrich our efforts in safeguarding public health and promoting informed decision-making.

As we look ahead, TMDA remains resolute in its mission to protect and promote public health, disseminating vital regulatory information to our valued stakeholders. We recognize the pivotal role that informed individuals play in maintaining the safety, quality, and effectiveness of medical products and diagnostics. Therefore, we encourage our esteemed readers to stay abreast of the latest developments and actively engage with us through constructive feedback and suggestions.

In the spirit of continuous improvement, we welcome your contributions towards enhancing future editions of this Newsletter. Your insights and perspectives are invaluable as we strive to meet the evolving needs of our community.

We invite you to delve into this edition with enthusiasm, knowing that it is crafted with the utmost dedication to serving your health and well-being.

Enjoy your reading!

Gaudensia Simwanza
Manager, Communication and Public Education

Parliamentary Committee Commends TMDA Laboratory for Excellence in Service Delivery

DURING a recent visit to the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) Laboratory in Dar es Salaam, members of the Parliamentary Committee for Health and HIV/AIDS lauded the Authority for its relentless pursuit of excellence.

The visit, which took place on 11th September, 2023, aimed at overseeing the implementation of regulatory functions concerning the analysis of regulated products. Expressing satisfaction with the Laboratory's performance, the Committee praised TMDA for its commitment to upholding quality and safety standards.

The Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee - Hon. Stanslaus Nyongo (MP), emphasized the pivotal role of the TMDA Laboratory in informing regulatory decisions concerning medicines, medical devices, and diagnostics. Hon. Nyongo highlighted the critical importance of the Laboratory to adhere to the quality management system (QMS) principles to maintain accreditation and ensure the accuracy of analytical results.

In his remarks, Hon. Nyongo articulated the Committee's optimism regarding the TMDA Laboratory's potential, urging the Authority to devise a strategic plan to expand the scope of analytical services. Such a plan, he asserted, would enable the Laboratory to offer a broader range of services, thereby further safeguarding public health.

On his side, Deputy Minister for Health, Hon. Dr. Godwin Mollel (MP), commended the Ministry's ongoing efforts to enhance the health sector, with a particular focus on regulating medical products. Dr. Mollel applauded TMDA's progress in improving the Laboratory, affirming the Ministry's commitment to collaborating with the Parliament and other stakeholders to strengthen TMDA's performance.

Furthermore, the TMDA Director General, Dr. Adam Fimbo, expressed gratitude to the Ministry for unwavering support and pledged to work tirelessly to ensure optimal service delivery. Dr. Fimbo underscored the importance of scientific evidence in regulatory decision-making and affirmed TMDA's dedication to upholding the highest standards.

The visit underscored the collective commitment of TMDA to its stakeholders to prioritize public health and ensure the quality, safety and efficacy of medical products in Tanzania. As TMDA continues its push towards excellence, collaboration between members of parliament and other stakeholders remains paramount in attaining its mission.

Minister Ummy Mwalimu Tasks New Board to Ensure Quality and Eradicating Falsified Products

IN a bid to strengthen Tanzania's medical regulatory landscape, the Minister of Health, Hon. Ummy A. Mwalimu (MP), inaugurated the new Ministerial Advisory Board. The directive, issued during the official launching on 23rd October 2023, at the TMDA headquarters in Dodoma, underscores a commitment to enhancing the oversight of medicines, medical devices, and diagnostics, ensuring their quality, safety, and efficacy.

Minister Ummy emphasized the pivotal role of the newly appointed board in elevating TMDA's performance, particularly in the relentless monitoring and interception of falsified and substandard (SF) products. "The greatest task you have is the continuous surveillance of SF products to prevent their circulation to the market," stated Minister Ummy, highlighting the imperative need to safeguard public health.

Furthermore, the Minister urged the Board to streamline the issuance of permits and licenses, fostering a conducive environment for trading in medical products without compromising the quality standards.

Meanwhile, Hon Ummy (MP), recognizing the achievements of the outgoing Board, commended their professionalism and contributions, urging the new members to build upon these milestones.

Under the leadership of Chairman Mr. Eric Shitindi, the outgoing Board's tenure witnessed significant contributions including the maintenance of Maturity Level Three status from the World Health Organization (WHO), certification of Quality Management Systems to ISO standards, and the strengthening of TMDA zone offices.

Expressing gratitude on behalf of the new Board, Chairman Mr. Eric Shitindi pledged support to leverage their collective experience and expertise to advance TMDA's performance and fulfill their advisory mandate effectively. Established pursuant to the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Act, Cap 219 and the Executive Agencies Act, Cap 245 the Board is entrusted with the role of advising the Minister of Health on strategic and operational matters pertaining to TMDA functions.

The current Board, comprising seven members, serving a three-year term from July 2023 to June 2026, accrues diverse expertise, including members with pharmacy, law, finance, and administration disciplines. The newly appointed members include Prof. Appolinary Kamuhabwa, Ms. Mariam Mwanilwa, CPA Chiku Thabit Yusuf, Advocate Patricia Maganga and Mr. Daudi Msasi. Dr. Adam M. Fimbo, who is the Director General of TMDA, will serve as the Secretary to the Board by virtue of his position.

"The greatest task you have is the continuous surveillance of SF products to prevent their circulation to the market," stated Minister Ummy,

Ministerial Advisory Board Visits Domestic Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Manufacturing Facilities

The Ministerial Advisory Board (MAB) for TMDA visited pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturing facilities in Dar es Salaam and Coast regions between January 23rd and 25th, 2024. This oversight visit aimed at understanding and meeting owners of the factories to discuss challenges they are facing.

The Board Chair – Mr. Eric Shitindi who was the head of the delegation, lauded the industries for their dedication in maintaining the standards of quality assurance of medical products they are manufacturing.

"The commitment despite the prevailing challenges, shown by these manufacturing plants is commendable, lamented Mr. Shitindi. He further stressed on ongoing vigilance of domestically marketed products to protect and promote public health.

On his part, the TMDA Director General, Dr. Adam Fimbo, elaborated on the need and significance of the visit as to keep members of MAB abreast of principles and approaches of pharmaceutical manufacturing as they always deliberate such agenda item during MAB proceedings.

"Ensuring the quality, safety, and efficacy of pharmaceuticals and medical devices from manufacturing to usage is paramount in safeguarding public health," Dr. Fimbo asserted.

During this visit, industry leaders including Mansoor Daya Chemicals Limited, Zenufa Laboratories Limited, Shelys Pharmaceuticals Limited, and Kas Biotech Limited reiterated their commitment to adhering to national and international standards. They affirmed compliance with regulations, laws, and guidelines, underscoring the pivotal role of TMDA's technical support in upholding these standards.

As Tanzania advances towards becoming a hub for pharmaceutical manufacturing and innovation, the collaboration between regulatory bodies like TMDA and its manufacturers remains essential. Maintaining stringent quality standards not only fortifies public health but also enhances the nation's reputation in the global healthcare landscape.

TMDA: An Expedition Towards Excellence - 2003-2023

IN a testament to two decades of unwavering commitment to public health and safety, the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) commemorates its 20th anniversary since its establishment in 2003. Since its inception, TMDA has been at the forefront of regulatory innovation, ensuring the quality, safety and efficacy of medicines, medical devices, and diagnostics across Tanzania.

2003 : ESTABLISHMENT OF TFDA

The Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA) was established after the enactment by Parliament of the Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Act (Chapter 219).

2004: EXPANSION OF TFDA LABORATORY IN DAR ES SALAAM

The TFDA expanded its Quality Control Laboratory building in Dar es Salaam including equipping the same with state-of-the-art analytical instruments, machines and equipment.

2005: INNOVATION AND SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF ACCREDITED DRUG DISPENSING OUTLET (ADDO) PROGRAMME

In protecting public health, the Authority innovated a regulatory system to mitigate the mushrooming of informal markets with unlicensed drug outlets and therefore approved the establishment of accredited drug outlets for selling medical products, a lesson that has been learnt by other National Regulatory Agencies (NRAs) in Africa.

2006: LAUNCHING AND OPERATIONALISATION OF ZONE OFFICE IN MWANZA

Mwanza Zonal Office was established with the overall aim of bringing regulatory services closer to the people. With this necessity, since 2006, eight zone offices have been established to carry out among other functions effective inspection and enforcement roles.

2007: COMPLETION OF THE TFDA HEADQUARTERS' OFFICE BUILDING IN DAR ES SALAAM

The construction of the headquarters building in Dar es Salaam was completed and commissioned to start operations.

2008: THE TFDA HEADQUARTERS' OFFICE BUILDING IN DAR ES SALAAM LAUNCHED

The TFDA Head Office building was officially launched by Hon. Amani Abeid Karume – President of the Revolutionary Republic of Zanzibar.

2009: ATTAINING ISO CERTIFICATION

The Authority attained ISO 9001: 2008 certification for setting up an effective quality management system (QMS) that responds to customer satisfaction. The standard was later on updated to ISO:9001: 2015 in 2015.

2010: AWARDED BEST MANAGED INSTITUTION IN TANZANIA

The Authority was ranked to be the best-managed institution in Tanzania amongst Ministries, Departments and Agencies for the years 2010 and 2011 consecutively.

2011: ATTAINING WHO PREQUALIFICATION FOR THE TFDA LABORATORY

The TFDA medicines laboratory attained WHO prequalification after a successful inspection conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO). After becoming WHO-prequalified, the laboratory provides reliable analytical testing services to customers dealing with medical products. Test results generated enable the Authority to make evidence-based regulatory decisions and are reliable internationally.

2012: DESIGNATION AS THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCEFOR REGISTRATION OF MEDICINES IN AFRICA

The Authority was designated as the Centre of Excellence for Registration of Medicines in Africa as part of the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (AMRH) initiative. While embracing a broad spectrum of expertise and specialities, TMDA is in a unique position to address some of the most challenging and pressing issues in the regulatory landscape in Africa.

2013: ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR LABORATORY TRAINING TO OTHER NRAS IN AFRICA

TMDA has been constantly providing scientific and analytical on job training to other NRAs in Africa. It strives to be a valued partner that forges strategic linkages with international agencies that share its commitment to public health protection.

2014: LAUNCHING OF AN INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (IMIS)

IMIS was officially launched and commissioned to allow for introduction of online services.

2015: AUTOMATION OF REGULATORY SERVICES

The Authority established an IT infrastructure which is very effective, including offering online services to customers such as an online import application gateway and electronic submission system for product dossiers. The system has attracted other NRAs within Africa to visit and learn on how to improve their e-commerce in regulatory services.

2016: COMPLETION OF LAKE ZONE OFFICE AND LABORATORY IN MWANZA

The construction of the Lake Zone office and Laboratory was completed including procurement of modern analytical equipment and instruments. This expanded

the scope of laboratory services provided by the Authority, thereby boosting its capacity to analyse samples.

2018: ATTAINMENT OF WHO MATURITY LEVEL 3; THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN AFRICA

The Authority was the first NRA in Africa to attain Maturity Level (ML) 3 for setting up a robust medicines regulatory system in 2018. This status made Tanzania to become the first World Health Organization (WHO) member state in Africa to reach this advanced stage in medicines regulation.

2018: QUALITY CONTROL LABORATORY ATTAINS WHO ML4

The Dar es Salaam Quality Control Laboratory attained Maturity Level 4 (ML4) after a successful WHO inspection. It was the first Quality Control Laboratory to attain WHO ML4 for testing pharmaceutical products in Africa.

2019: CHANGE OF NAME FROM TFDA TO TMDA

The name of Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA) was changed to Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) after amendment of the Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Act, Cap 219 and the Standards Act, Cap 130. Following the amendments, the regulation of food products and cosmetics was shifted from TFDA to the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS). The amendment was done through the Finance Act of 2019.

2020: Completion of TMDA Zone Office and Laboratory in Dodoma

The construction of the Central Zone Office and Laboratory was completed including procuring modern analytical equipment and instruments to allow for effective laboratory services.

2021: TMDA ASSIGNED TO REGULATE TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Under Section 18 of the Tobacco Products (Regulations) Act (Chapter 121), the Minister for Health designated the TMDA as the Regulator of tobacco products.

2022: TMDA Establishes Mobile and Patient Reporting Systems for Safety Monitoring of Medicines

The Authority launched the patient safety reporting system to allow for effective monitoring of safety of medicines circulating on the market.

2023: TWENTY (20) YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS

TMDA marks its 20th anniversary of successful operations in regulating the quality, safety, and efficacy of medicines, medical devices, diagnostics, and tobacco products. With a legacy of excellence and a commitment to innovation, TMDA pushes to be a driving force in advancing healthcare regulation in Africa and beyond.

Noteworthy, in the last 20 years, the Authority has constantly obtained a Clean Audit Certificate issued by the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) for optimal and effective financial and institutional management.

TMDA Director General Earns PhD Degree from Karolinska Institutet in Sweden

IN a remarkable feat of academic achievement, Dr. Adam Mitangu Fimbo, the Director General of Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA), has been conferred with a Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) from the prestigious Karolinska Institutet in Sweden. The culmination of his doctoral journey, marked on the 26th April, 2024, stands as a testament to his unwavering commitment to advancing healthcare and pharmaceutical safety.

Dr. Fimbo's doctoral thesis, centered on the pharmacovigilance of Ivermectin and Albendazole in mass drug administration programs targeting lymphatic filariasis endemic communities in Tanzania, not only underscores his dedication but also poses a challenge to experts worldwide to delve into sensitive curative issues for patient safety.

The TMDA, recognizing the significance of Dr. Fimbo's research, anticipates that his findings will profoundly influence pharmacovigilance departments across Africa and Tanzania, particularly in similar medical contexts. The Authority commends Dr. Fimbo on his groundbreaking work and extends heartfelt congratulations on his well-deserved achievement.

Dr. Fimbo's academic journey is distinguished by his relentless pursuit of knowledge and expertise in healthcare regulation. Holding previous academic laurels including Master's Degrees in Clinical Trials from the University of London at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, as well as Pharmaceutical Services and Medicines Control from the University of Bradford in the United Kingdom, Dr. Fimbo's educational foundation is as solid as it is diverse.

His journey into academia began with a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree from Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), laying the groundwork for a career marked by innovation and leadership in healthcare regulation.

Within the TMDA, Dr. Fimbo's visionary leadership has propelled the Authority to become one of Africa's premier regulatory bodies. Under his guidance, the TMDA has achieved ISO 9001 certification and attained and maintained World Health Organization (WHO) Maturity Level 3, reflecting the organization's commitment to excellence and international standards.

Beyond Tanzania, Dr. Fimbo's contributions to global healthcare are noteworthy. His tenure as a Technical Officer with the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, Switzerland, and his role as an assessor for the WHO Prequalification Programme underscore his influence on the international stage.

Notably, Dr. Fimbo's legacy extends beyond academia and regulation. He played a pivotal role in establishing a robust system for clinical trial control in Tanzania, bridging gaps in healthcare infrastructure and paving the way for advancements in medical research.

As Dr. Fimbo embarks on the next phase of his career, his dedication to improving healthcare access and safety serves as an inspiration to aspiring healthcare professionals and regulators worldwide. The impact of his work reverberates not only within Tanzania but across borders, shaping the future of healthcare regulation and patient care on a global scale.

Excellence in Medical Journalism:

Four Journalists Honoured by TMDA for Outstanding Reporting

IN an historic occasion during the annual retreat involving the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) and media outlets held in Iringa region on 16th of May 2024, four journalists were honoured for outstanding reporting on matters related to TMDA functions. The eventual winners for the year 2023 were selected based on the same set of criteria used in the previous years to identify those who dedicated their time and effort to write on topics covering the roles and responsibilities of TMDA.

Speaking during this colourful event, the Director General of TMDA, Dr. Adam Fimbo, commended the winners for their commitment and urged them to continue crafting informative narratives next year. "We stress to you to keep writing on matters reacted to quality, safety and efficacy of medical products for the public to comprehend more on our roles and protect themselves from consuming harmful products" Dr. Fimbo emphasized. He further underlined the critical role of journalists in shaping public perception and understanding of healthcare matters.

Addressing the audience, the Communication and Public Education Manager, Ms. Gaudensia Simwanza, shed light on the rigorous selection process, emphasizing that winning journalists had submitted their work to TMDA for evaluation. Encouraging aspiring journalists to participate in this now famous annual competition, Ms. Simwanza highlighted the significance of fostering a culture of excellence in medical journalism.

Among the distinguished awardees, was Veronica Mrema who was the overall winner – she took her time to delve into reporting of complex topics on health-related issues. The second, third and fourth runners-up were Madina Mohamed, Penina Malundo and Andrew Challe respectively.

"We stress to you to keep writing on matters reacted to quality, safety and efficacy of medical products for the public to comprehend more on our roles and protect themselves from consuming harmful products" Dr. Fimbo emphasized.

Each winner was bestowed with a trophy as a symbol of appreciation together with financial incentives to entice them to participate again in future similar competitions.

Iringa Regional Commissioner Urges Community to be Vigilant on Substandard and Falsified Products

THE Iringa Regional Commissioner, Mr. Peter Serukamba, has issued a strong warning, urging for immediate cessation of clandestine selling of substandard and falsified (SF) medical products to the public. The directives were promulgated during an official opening of a two-day retreat of Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) and Editors and Journalists from media outlets residing in Iringa, Dodoma and Singida regions.

During this event which was scheduled on 16th May, 2024, in Iringa region, Mr. Serukamba emphasized on ethical reporting by journalists to avoid misinformation and panic to the public. He acclaimed that TMDA cannot perform its duties effectively without cooperation from the media in the country.

"It is my belief that by working in collaboration with the community you will grasp the challenges that citizens face on matters related to quality and safety of medicines and medical devices" Mr. Serukamba asserted.

"It is my belief that by working in collaboration with the community you will grasp the challenges that citizens face on matters related to quality and safety of medicines and medical devices" Mr. Serukamba asserted.

Moreover, Mr. Serukamba reaffirmed the importance of being vigilant to detect any SF products circulating on the market to safeguard public health. He further commended the TMDA for a great job done and pledged support from his office.

In his remarks during the opening, the TMDA Director General, Dr. Adam Fimbo, stressed on the importance of media engagement including the role of TMDA in educating the public on rational use of medical products. Dr. Fimbo called upon a greater collaboration between the media and TMDA to join forces to strengthen monitoring of quality and safety of medical products in the country.

"Despite the milestones registered, without media involvement our overall goal of protecting and promoting public health cannot be realized and this is why we have always been engaging with the media to spread out information on our roles and responsibilities. This has proven pivotal in recent times as we have been able to reach out to the majority and help in safeguarding public health" Dr. Fimbo cemented.

During the meeting, presentations were made to participants, covering all topics on TMDA functions including the existing legal framework and matters related to regulation of medical products in Tanzania.

TMDA Ensures Accountability in Distribution of Medical Devices

IN a proactive move to uphold standards in healthcare delivery, the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) recently conducted a comprehensive follow-up inspection on the distribution status of medical devices and diagnostics imported into the country with special permits. The inspection, conducted between May 29th and June 2nd, 2024, aimed at ensuring the proper distribution of devices in commercial markets without unauthorized diversions, especially those imported by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) as aid.

The findings, presented by TMDA Director of Medical Devices and Diagnostics, Ms. Kisa Mwamwitwa, during the TMDA Workers' Council meeting held in Morogoro on 9th September, 2023, painted a revealing picture. Approximately 77% of medical devices and diagnostics imported with special permits successfully reached their intended destinations. However, the inspection also brought to light a concerning discovery: 311 devices, constituting 23% of the total, were found lacking both receipt documents and usage records at their designated points.

Ms. Mwamwitwa clarified on the inspection exercise, highlighting a thorough nationwide inspection of health centres to verify whether the imported medical devices and diagnostics reached their specified destinations as indicated in the application documents. In response to the discrepancy involving the 311 medical devices, which were neither found at their destination centers nor accompanied by requisite documentation, Ms. Mwamwitwa affirmed that the Authority issued directives to the importers to provide detailed information about the missing products within the stipulated timeframe.

Moreover, the follow-up inspection targeted regions with a significant number of special permits issued between January 2022 and March 2023. These regions included Dar es Salaam, Pwani, Tanga, Mwanza, Arusha, Manyara, Kilimanjaro, Singida, Dodoma, and Mbeya. A total of 1558 special permits were granted during this period for use in hospitals and medical research centres as donations. Of these, 788 permits, accounting for 50%, underwent inspection, revealing that 464 permits, representing 59%, were thoroughly examined.

Through such rigorous inspection and monitoring processes, TMDA remains resolute in its commitment to ensuring the effective and responsible distribution of medical devices, ultimately enhancing the quality of healthcare services provided to Tanzanian communities. This concerted effort underscores the Authority's

TMDA Approves Construction of Incinerator for Safe Disposal of Medical Waste

IN an effort to enhance public health and streamline the disposal of unfit medicines and medical devices, the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) has green-lighted the construction of a state-of-the-art incinerator in Dodoma region. The move comes as a collaborative effort between the TMDA and The Global Fund, with a total investment of US Dollars 472,102.45 allocated for the project.

During the meeting held on 6th January, 2024, in Dodoma, Dr. Yonah Mwalwisi, Director of Human and Veterinary Medicines at TMDA, proclaimed the commencement of the project after finalizing agreements with the contractor - National Housing Corporation (NHC).

It has been noted that the incinerator, slated to be operational within six months, aims to address the critical need for safe disposal of medical products deemed unsuitable for human consumption.

Dr. Mwalwisi highlighted the significance of the incinerator, emphasizing its role in preventing unfit medicines, medical devices, and diagnostics from reaching consumers, thereby averting potential health hazards. He elaborated that, "the incinerator would handle a variety of products, including expired items, those seized during inspections, unregistered products, and falsified or substandard items" Dr. Mwalwisi asserted.

One of the primary benefits plugged by Dr. Mwalwisi is the substantial cost reduction associated with waste disposal. Currently, TMDA expends approximately TZS 150 million annually on disposing of around 1,800 tons of unfit pharmaceutical products. With the new incinerator in place, these costs are expected to diminish significantly, leading to substantial savings for the Authority and stakeholders alike.

Moreover, the strategically located incinerator is poised to serve as a centralized disposal hub, accessible to various stakeholders across the country. Dr. Mwalwisi revealed that TMDA issues permits for the disposal of approximately 13,000 tons of unfit medical products annually. With the incinerator's operational capacity, stakeholders will benefit from streamlined disposal processes, further reinforcing public safety measures.

In addition to cost savings and operational efficiency, the incinerator project underscores Tanzania's commitment to environmental stewardship. Dr. Mwalwisi reassured stakeholders that all necessary pre-construction permits, including Environmental and Social Impact Assessments, have been obtained, ensuring compliance with stringent regulatory standards.

With construction set to commence imminently on an 18,607 square meter plot in Nala, Dodoma region, the incinerator represents a pivotal milestone in Tanzania's healthcare infrastructure. By fostering a safe and sustainable solution for medical waste disposal, the initiative promises to safeguard public health while advancing the nation's healthcare objectives.

TMDA Clears Benylin Pediatric Syrup of Safety Concerns

IN a recent development, the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) has put an end to speculations surrounding the safety and quality of "BENYLIN PEDIATRIC SYRUP," dispelling rumours that had sparked concerns among consumers.

The issue came to light on 13th April, 2024, when TMDA responded to circulating doubts regarding the liquid medicinal product with batch number 329304, manufactured by Johnson & Johnson (Pvt), Capetown, South Africa. Allegations had surfaced suggesting that the specific batch, produced in May 2021 with an expiration date of April 2024, contained unacceptable levels of additives, including Diethylene Glycol and Ethylene Glycol, potentially posing health risks, particularly to children aged between two (2) to 12 years old.

To promptly address these claims, TMDA assured the public of their commitment to investigating the matter thoroughly. This led to a comprehensive examination of the medicine, encompassing rigorous laboratory analyses of both the suspected and other batches of the product available on the market.

After thorough surveillance and laboratory testing, the TMDA released a statement on 9th May, 2024, confirming that no quality or safety concerns were detected. The TMDA Director General, Dr. Adam Fimbo emphasized that the medicine remains safe for human consumption, urging consumers to continue following healthcare professionals' guidance and advice regarding its usage.

Moreover, in a submission to maintain confidence on the product, TMDA directed medicine dealers - both wholesale and retail - to resume the distribution and sale of all batches of Benylin Pediatric Syrup. Similarly, healthcare facilities, encompassing private and public hospitals, were advised to continue utilizing the medicine in accordance with established protocols.

This conclusive declaration by TMDA brings clarity and assurance to the public, reaffirming the safety and efficacy of Benylin Pediatric Syrup. With the regulatory body's endorsement, consumers can rest assured in the continued availability and reliability of this essential medication for paediatric care.

Study reveals increase of antibiotics intake during COVID-19 pandemic in Tanzania

ANTIMicrobial resistance (AMR) poses a serious global health threat by hindering the treatment of bacterial infections. In low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), including Tanzania, the misuse and overuse of antibiotics have resulted in high rates of AMR, making it challenging to treat bacterial infections.

A study to investigate the trends in antibiotic utilisation patterns in Tanzania before and during the intra-COVID-19 eras using Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) data from 2018 to 2021 has recently been published. The study revealed that the combined use of all antibiotics increased by 21% from the pre- to intra-COVID-19 period. An increase was noted for gentamicin, azithromycin and tetracycline. However, a decrease was observed in chloramphenicol, norfloxacin and tetracycline use.

TMDA continues to monitor antibiotic use including cancelling the marketing authorization of antibiotics that become resistant to treatment. In connection with this, the TMDA has recently revoked the marketing authorization of all products containing ampicillin as a single moiety. This came after a thorough review provided evidence that such medicine has a limited effect when used to treat bacterial infections.

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TMDA and TRA Pledge Cooperation to Address Importation Challenges

IN a significant stride towards enhancing the importation process of medicines and medical devices in Tanzania, the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) and the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) have embarked on a collaborative effort to tackle prevalent challenges faced by importers.

The decision to join forces was reached during a visitation of the Ministerial Advisory Board (MAB) at the Dar es Salaam Port, where discussions between TMDA officials and TRA Management bore fruit on 25th January, 2024.

Among the key issues addressed are the impediments encountered by domestic manufacturers of medicines and medical devices when importing essential raw materials from overseas. Notably, items such as sugar, a crucial ingredient for manufacturing medicines, have been classified differently by the two Authorities. While TMDA views these as raw materials, TRA categorizes them as finished products, resulting in undue tax burdens on manufacturers. To rectify this, both entities have committed to re-evaluating their taxation policies to align with the needs of local producers, thereby fostering a conducive environment for domestic manufacturing.

Furthermore, a concerted effort is underway to streamline the Electronic Single Window System, a pivotal component in cargo clearance procedures at the Dar es Salaam port. By eliminating irrelevant HS codes and simplifying processes, the aim is to expedite cargo clearance, reducing delays and inconveniences for traders and manufacturers alike. This overhaul not only enhances efficiency but also underscores the commitment of TMDA and TRA to prioritize customer satisfaction.

Mr. Eric Shitindi, Chairman of MAB, emphasized the importance of supporting local manufacturers to meet domestic demand, thereby reducing reliance on imported medical products and regulatory costs.

Moreover, Dr. Adam Fimbo, Director General of TMDA, expressed gratitude to TRA for their cooperation in enhancing the Electronic Single Window System. Dr. Fimbo highlighted the significant reduction in complaints from various stakeholders since the system's improvement, underscoring its positive impact on trade facilitation.

In response, the TRA Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Mr. Juma Bakari affirmed the Authority's commitment to further improving the Electronic Single Window System. Encouraging TMDA to provide input on pertinent issues, both entities aim to collaboratively address challenges and ensure seamless operations for importers of medicines and medical devices.

The collaborative efforts between TMDA and TRA signify a proactive approach towards addressing importation challenges, fostering a conducive environment for the growth of the healthcare sector in Tanzania. With a shared commitment to efficiency and customer satisfaction, this partnership holds promise for a streamlined importation process that ultimately benefits both manufacturers and consumers alike.

TMDA Wins Top Honor for e-Government Compliance

IN a significant recognition of its commitment to digital governance, the Tanzania Medicines and Authority (TMDA) has clinched the prestigious accolade for top compliance with the law and regulations of the e-Government Agency (eGA) for the period 2023/24.

The esteemed award was bestowed upon TMDA on the 8th of February, 2024, during the fourth eGA annual meeting held in Arusha.

The selection process for this coveted award involved rigorous scrutiny based on a set of comprehensive criteria.

TMDA excelled in various key areas, including the timely submission of ICT data and annual reporting to eGA.

The Authority's dedication to upholding regulatory standards was evident through the efficient functioning of its ICT Committee, led by the Chief Executive Officer. Notably, TMDA ensured that ICT projects were meticulously vetted and approved by eGA before implementation — a testament to its adherence to protocol and governance procedures.

Moreover, TMDA's proactive approach to information dissemination played a pivotal role in securing this accolade. The Authority consistently presented accurate and timely information via the Government "Portal," enhancing transparency and accessibility for stakeholders. Additionally, the presence of dedicated ICT personnel within the organization, coupled with the engagement of an ICT Security Specialist, underscored TMDA's unwavering commitment to data security and integrity.

The recognition of TMDA's exemplary performance in the realm of eGA compliance underscores the critical role of digital governance in advancing Tanzania's socio-economic development agenda. By embracing innovative ICT solutions and adhering to regulatory frameworks, TMDA sets a commendable benchmark for other government agencies to follow, signalling a progressive shift towards a more digitally inclusive and transparent governance landscape.

As Tanzania continues its marching towards digital transformation, TMDA's achievement serves as a beacon of inspiration, reaffirming the transformative power of technology in driving efficiency, accountability, and customer-centric service delivery.

Pictorial News

MAB Visiting Dar Es Salaam Port

Congratulation for Joining TMDA

We are Committed to Support Other Regulatory Authority

Pictorial News

Our Goal is to Protect and Promote Public Health

Happy worker's Day

Pictorial News

Awareness on Customer Care Services

Public Education for All

Sports News

Sports for Health

TMDA Workers Council Lauded as Model of Transparency and Compliance

IN a recent submission from the Permanent Secretary of the Association of Trade Union Congress in Tanzania (TUCTA), Mr. Hery Mkunda, the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) Workers Council has been hailed as a shining example of effective governance and adherence to labour laws. The approbation, which was conferred during the Council's regular meeting held in Morogoro on 14th February 2024, underscores the Council's pivotal role in guiding the Authority towards excellence.

Since its inception in 2005, the TMDA Workers Council has adhered to the highest standards of governance, conducting its meetings with due diligence and in accordance with the requisite labour regulations stipulated by the responsible Commissioner under the Prime Minister's Office.

Mr. Mkunda emphasized the Council's transparent and diligent approach to addressing crucial matters concerning the Authority, lauding its commitment to ensuring that decisions are made in the best interest of all stakeholders.

Moreover, he credited the seamless collaboration between the Management Team, led by Director General Dr. Adam Fimbo, and the Workers Council for TMDA's distinguished status as the premier regulatory authority for pharmaceutical products not only in Tanzania but also in Africa. This recognition was further solidified by the recent reaffirmation of TMDA's WHO Maturity Level-3 status in 2024, a testament to its unwavering dedication to regulatory excellence.

During the meeting, a myriad of significant agenda items were deliberated upon, ranging from the Proposed Budget for the Financial Year 2024/25 to the assessment of achievements of the 5th Workers Council. Notably, discussions also encompassed the meticulous selection process for the team tasked with documenting the historical background of the Workers Council, underscoring the Council's commitment to preserving its legacy.

Dr. Adam Fimbo, the Director General of TMDA and Chairperson of the Council expressed gratitude for the collective efforts that culminated in the success of the meeting. He urged members to disseminate the outcomes of the meeting widely among their colleagues to foster awareness and inclusivity.

Since its inception in 2005, the TMDA Workers Council has adhered to the highest standards of governance, conducting its meetings with due diligence and in accordance with the requisite labour regulations stipulated by the responsible Commissioner under the Prime Minister's Office. This steadfast commitment to compliance and validity has been instrumental in solidifying the Council's reputation as a paragon of transparency and accountability within Tanzania's regulatory landscape.

The positive gesture given to the TMDA Workers Council serves as a testament to its unwavering dedication to excellence, setting a benchmark for effective governance and labour relations not only within the Authority but also across the broader spectrum of regulatory bodies in Tanzania. As the Council continues to chart new frontiers in regulatory oversight, its commitment to transparency, inclusivity, and adherence to labour laws remains unwavering, reinforcing its pivotal role in safeguarding public health and welfare.

TMDA – Winner of Media Relations Award for 2023

THE Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) has won the Media Relations Award for 2023. This remarkable accolade was presented to TMDA during a colourful event organized by the Public Relations Society of Tanzania (PRST) on 5th of April, 2024, in Dar es Salaam. Stepping up to the podium, the Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technology - Maryprisca Mahundi, stressed on the importance of engaging with the media as she was handing over the award.

She hailed the TMDA for its outstanding efforts in fostering a favourable atmosphere that is productive embracing the sharing of knowledge and information to the public which ultimately benefits Tanzanians.

The award is a statement of TMDA's commitment to quality and creativity in media relations techniques. Through an open and transparent communication framework, the TMDA has enabled media experts to carry out their duties as information conduits, guaranteeing timely and accurate news on healthcare matters reaching the public domain.

This accolade not only highlights the significance of efficient media engagement, but also sets a standard for others to follow. Speaking when receiving the award at TMDA premises, the Director General, Dr. Adam Fimbo, expressed gratitude for the honour and reaffirmed its commitment to upholding the highest standards of communication excellence. "This achievement not only reflects TMDA's steady-fast dedication to its mandate but also serves as an impetus for further innovation and collaboration in the pursuit of advancing healthcare outcomes for all Tanzanians" Dr. Fimbo lamented.

When addressing the audience after receiving the award on behalf of TMDA, Ms. Gaudensia Simwanza, Manager of Communications and Public Education, asserted that "As we commemorate this historic day, it is critical to acknowledge the mutually beneficial partnership between TMDA and the media. We can harness the power of knowledge to move Tanzania towards a healthier and more prosperous future".

PRST is a privately owned institution that issues Public Relations awards to both public and private organizations on an annual basis to recognize the contribution of public relations experts across the country on media involvement.

"As we commemorate this historic day, it is critical to acknowledge the mutually beneficial partnership between TMDA and the media. We can harness the power of knowledge to move Tanzania towards a healthier and more prosperous future".

Training of Pharmacists on Handling Narcotic Drugs

IN an effort to bolster compliance with regulations on management of narcotic drugs, the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) Eastern Lake Zone Office organized a comprehensive one-day capacity-building training on 13th November 2024, in Mwanza region.

TMDA's ongoing inspection of health facilities authorized to procure controlled drugs for hospital use. She stressed on the need for pharmacists to promptly rectify any identified deficiencies within their respective jurisdictions.

The training, spearheaded by Ms. Sophia Mziray, Manager of TMDA Eastern Lake Zone Office, underscored the critical importance of adherence to strict protocols in the storage, utilization, record-keeping, and administration of controlled drugs among pharmacists. Ms. Mziray emphasized that lapses in compliance could lead to harmful adverse reactions in patients, urging pharmacists to meticulously follow established guidelines and procedures.

Speaking during the opening ceremony, Ms. Mziray highlighted TMDA's ongoing inspection of health facilities authorized to procure controlled drugs for hospital use. She stressed on the need for pharmacists to promptly rectify any identified deficiencies within their respective jurisdictions.

Furthermore, she cemented on the significance of teamwork in managing and utilizing controlled drugs within health facilities, expressing concerns over instances of inadequate cooperation between pharmacists, nurses, and doctors, which can adversely affect patient care.

Addressing the legal implications of improper narcotic drug use, Inspector Wamba Msafiri, Assistant Commissioner of Operations from the Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) at the Lake Zone Office, warned of severe penalties under the Control and Combating of Drugs Act of 2015, Cap 9, for violators engaging in criminal conduct. Inspector Msafiri urged for imminent refraining from such actions and encouraged the public to report any illicit drug activities to relevant Authorities.

On the flip side, Ms. Theresa Lubasa, a participating pharmacist, hailed TMDA's capacity-building initiatives, lamenting on the pivotal role of such training in enhancing skills and competence among pharmacists, particularly those in the public sector. Ms. Lubasa commended TMDA's commitment to ensuring the safe and responsive management of controlled drugs, thereby safeguarding public health and well-being.

The training session reflects TMDA's proactive approach towards fostering compliance and competence among pharmacists, ultimately contributing to the promotion of safer healthcare practices and protection of the community at large.

Researchers recommend measures to prevent misuse of erectile dysfunction medicines

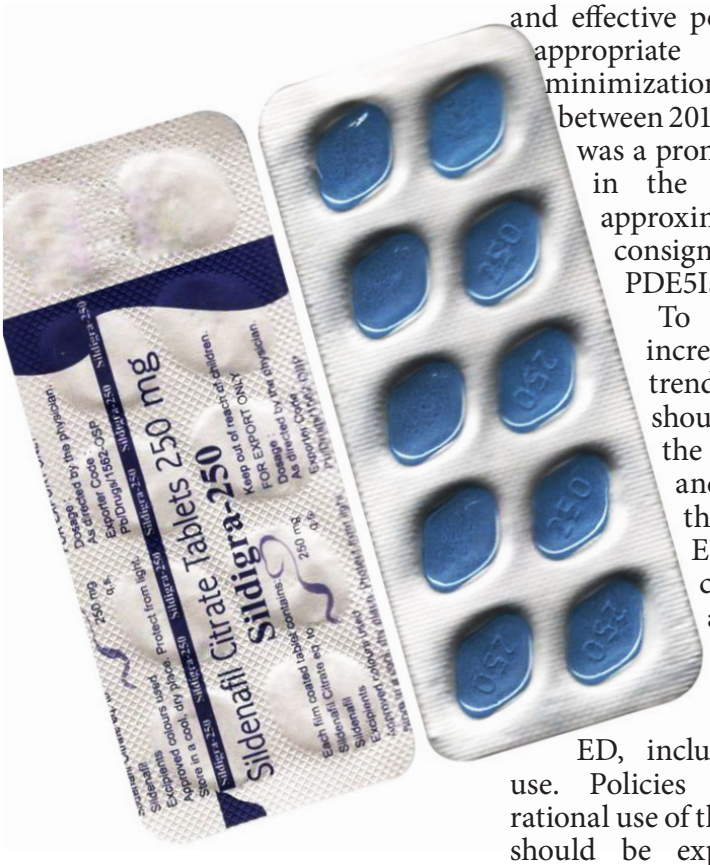
ERECTILE dysfunction (ED) profoundly affects millions of people globally, including interfering with mental health and quality of life. ED, characterized by the inability to achieve or sustain an erection sufficient for satisfactory sexual performance, is a medical condition affecting an estimated 322 million individuals worldwide, including 30 million people in Africa.

Approximately 30 to 50 million men in the United States and 150 million people globally grapple with sexual dysfunction owing to their inability to maintain erection. This problem is widespread among older individuals, with about half of men over the age of 40 years experiencing dysfunction.

Experts say that ED, also known as impotence, has severe social implications for the affected individuals and their communities. This prevalent sexual dysfunction in men often arises from inadequate blood flow to the penis owing to various organic, relational, or psychological factors which include old age, stress, mental health disorders, prostate surgery, substance abuse, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, smoking, or excessive cycling.

Medicines for ED include Sildenafil, Tadalafil and Valdernafil. They act as phosphodiesterase type-5 inhibitors (PDE5I) that work by relaxing the smooth muscle lining of blood vessels, thereby causing dilatation and enhancing blood flow.

The use of these medicines is also associated with adverse effects ranging from less severe symptoms, such as facial flushing, headache, nasal congestion, dyspepsia, dizziness, nightmares, palpitations, lethargy, and muscle



pain, to more severe, such as acute myocardial infarction.

Despite the recognized importance of understanding PDE5Is utilization trends and their implications, the full extent of this conundrum in Tanzania remains largely undefined.

To dig deep into the utilization of PDE5Is in Tanzania, a team of researchers conducted a study to address the existing knowledge gap by leveraging importation data from the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA).

Focusing on a comprehensive evaluation of PDE5Is importation over five years, this study aimed to uncover the patterns and rationality behind their consumption.

The study revealed increasing annual trends of PDE5Is utilization necessitating ongoing oversight and effective policies to ensure appropriate use and risk minimization. It showed that between 2019 and 2023, there was a pronounced increase in the importation of approximately 587 consignments of PDE5Is.

To address the increasing utilization trend, the TMDA should monitor the use of PDE5Is and prevent their misuse. Educational campaigns are pivotal to increasing public awareness of ED, including their safe use. Policies promoting the rational use of these medications should be explored to offer healthcare providers clear guidelines for prescription and patient counselling.

Further research into alternative treatments is also advocated to broaden patient options and potentially reduce dependency on PDE5Is as well as fostering global collaboration to exchange knowledge and strategies for managing PDE5Is.

For more reading, please cite the full-text publication here: Sangeda R Z, Kadinde A W, Masatu C F, Mwalwisi Y H, Yahya-Malima K I, Fimbo A M, (April 16, 2024) Utilization Trends of Phosphodiesterase Type-5 Inhibitors for Erectile Dysfunction Between 2019 and 2023 in Tanzania. Cureus 16(4): e58419. doi:10.7759/cureus.58419.

Tanzania's Medical Devices Testing Laboratory Attains ISO 17025:2017 Accreditation

IN a significant stride towards enhancing public health standards, Tanzania's Medical Devices Testing Laboratory achieved ISO 17025:2017 accreditation by the Southern African Accreditation Board (SADCAS). Following a meticulous inspection from 13th to 15th December 2023, the accreditation encompasses 12 testing techniques across various medical device categories.

This accreditation, valid from 2024 to 2029, signifies a pivotal moment in Tanzania's healthcare landscape. The strategic journey leading to this milestone witnessed the construction and equipping of a state-of-the-art laboratory in Dar es Salaam, solely dedicated to analyzing medical devices and diagnostics. Funded internally, this initiative underscores the Authority's unwavering commitment to ensuring the availability of high-quality, safe, and effective medical products for public health interventions.

"The accreditation of our Medical Devices Testing Laboratory heralds a new era of confidence in our regulatory capabilities," Dr. Danstan Shewiyo, Director of Laboratory Services alluded to.

Dr. Danstan went on by stressing that, "It not only accelerates our routine surveillance activities but also streamlines the registration process for medical devices, bolstering their regulation".

At the forefront of the laboratory's services are analytical testing for a spectrum of medical devices and diagnostics, including but not limited to gloves, condoms, mRDTs, HIV test kits, UPTs, and other commonly used In-Vitro Diagnostic Devices (IVDDs). This accreditation represents a continuation of the Authority's ongoing efforts to fortify control over regulated products, ensuring heightened safety and efficacy standards.

Established under section 14(1) of the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Act, Cap. 219, the Authority Quality Control Laboratory holds the mandate for conducting comprehensive laboratory analyses on pharmaceutical products and medical devices. Notably, the laboratory's recognition as a WHO Prequalified facility since January 2011 underscores its competence in analyzing medicines, further cementing its reputation as a trusted regulatory body.

"We extend a warm invitation to our esteemed customers and the general public to leverage the testing services offered by the TMDA Laboratory," encouraged Dr. Danstan.

Moreover, he went on by saying, "Our commitment is reflected in our investments towards procuring specialized standards, equipment, and resources, ensuring the timely provision of analytical services."

With the ISO 17025:2017 accreditation, Tanzania's Medical Devices Testing Laboratory stands dignified to uphold the highest standards of quality, safety, and effectiveness, safeguarding the health and well-being of its citizens and beyond.

TMDA Sets Standard for African Pharmaceutical Oversight

IN a significant milestone for pharmaceutical regulation across Africa, Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) has emerged as a beacon of excellence, drawing the attention of regional counterparts and international organizations alike.

Recently, the Botswana Medicines Regulatory Agency (BoMRA) and officials from the African Union Development Agency - New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD) embarked on separate visits to TMDA, seeking to learn from its exemplary regulatory framework and operational efficiency.

During their visit in January 2024, BoMRA Board Members were given an immersive experience into TMDA's operations, touring its offices in Dodoma and Dar es Salaam. Witnessing firsthand the meticulous processes of product evaluation, analysis, registration, and inspection. The visitors were left impressed by the Authority's commitment to quality assurance.

Furthermore, they were introduced to TMDA's robust pharmacovigilance system, efficient customer care protocols, and advanced electronic infrastructure. The BoMRA delegation departed with a pledge to implement TMDA's best practices upon their return, recognizing the potential to enhance regulatory standards within Botswana.

In a subsequent assessment conducted by AUDA-NEPAD in late February 2024, TMDA's capacity to spearhead the continent-wide pharmacovigilance initiative known as "AU3S" was thoroughly evaluated.

This ambitious project aims to centralize pharmacovigilance initiatives across Africa through the AfriVigilance platform, streamlining data reporting to the World Health Organization.

Impressed by TMDA's regulatory expertise, financial management insight, and collaborative spirit, AUDA-NEPAD granted the Authority the mandate to be part of the AU3S project for Africa, commencing July 2024.

This initiative, supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and UK-MHRA partners, marks a significant stride towards harmonizing pharmaceutical safety monitoring on the continent.

TMDA's journey towards excellence traces back to its inception in 2003, evolving from the Pharmacy Board to its current status as a model of regulatory efficiency. Over the decades, TMDA has diligently honed its capacities, becoming a trusted partner for sister countries within the region. By sharing its wealth of experience, TMDA continues to be the leading regulatory authority in ensuring the quality, safety, and efficacy of medicines, medical devices, diagnostics, and other related products.

Farewell Bid to Retired TMDA Staff

THE Authority has bid farewell to its four retired staff namely Adv. Iskari Fute, Mr. Charles Ntagondwa, Mr. Johnpeter Makala and Mr. James Ndege who retired between June 2023 and May 2024 respectively.

Adv. Fute was employed in 2005 as a Legal Services Manager until his retirement. During his services at TMDA, he contributed to a number of notable achievements such as conducting fraud investigations, coordinating prosecution matters at courts of law, drafting various regulations and guidelines, and amendment of Acts within the Authority among other things.

Mr. Ntagondwa joined TMDA as an accountant after being transferred from the Ministry responsible for Health in 2008. He worked in the sub-units of Revenue and Examination at TMDA Headquarters before being transferred to TMDA Central Zone Office in Dodoma in 2022 where he continued to work as an accountant until his retirement.

Mr. Makala was employed by the then Pharmacy Board in 2003 as a Security Officer and he was one of the founding members of TFDA on 1st July 2003. After completing his Diploma and Bachelor in Law he joined the Legal Services Unit as an Investigation Officer and managed to investigate and prosecute many TMDA cases at various courts of law.

On the other hand, Mr. Ndege just like Mr. Makala, was employed by the then Pharmacy Board in 2003 as a Librarian. He was awarded a Bachelor Degree in Library and Information studies from Tumaini University Dar es Salaam College in 2004. During his time at TMDA, he managed to establish three (3) TMDA libraries in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Mwanza. He also coordinated the automation of library services using a customized TMDA Integrated Library Management System (Koha Library System). Even more, he was elected to become the TMDA Workers Council Secretary for six (6) years from 2018 – 2023.

TMDA commends their outstanding contribution and performances within the Authority. Indeed, they will be missed and we wish them all the very best in their retirement life believing that as our former employees, we will continue to use their expertise in different spectrums, whenever possible.

Adv. Iskari Fute

James Ndege

John Makalla

Charles Ntagondwa

ORBITUARY

Mr. Themistocles Rutta Kahamba

Dr. Emmanuel Erasto Mutakyakwa

In Loving Memory: TMDA Mourns the Loss of Dedicated Staff

IN a solemn moment of reflection, the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) finds itself immersed in a deep memorial for two of its beloved staff members who tragically departed from this world between July and October 2023. Their untimely passing has left a void not only within the walls of the Authority but also in the hearts of their families, friends, and the nation at large.

The first blow came on July 18, 2023, when Mr. Themistocles Rutta Kahamba, a Senior Laboratory Technician within the Communication and Public Education Unit at TMDA Headquarters, breathed his last at Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam. Mr. Kahamba's dedication to his work and his vibrant presence within the TMDA community made his loss feel like a sudden and surreal dream.

Just three months later, tragedy struck once again with devastating force. On October 2, 2023, Dr. Emmanuel Erasto Mutakyakwa and his spouse, Ndeshimuni Emmanuel Mutakyahwa, were involved in a fatal motor accident that claimed their lives instantly. Dr. Emmanuel, a respected Senior Drug Registration Officer within the Directorate of Human and Veterinary Medicines at TMDA's Head Office in Dodoma, and his beloved spouse were pillars of strength and professionalism within the organization.

The news of these losses reverberated not only within TMDA but throughout the entire nation. Colleagues mourned the departure of these exceptional individuals, whose contributions to the field of healthcare regulation and public service were invaluable. Their legacy of dedication, passion, and excellence will continue to inspire and guide us as we navigate the challenges ahead.

As we honor the memory of Mr. Themistocles Rutta Kahamba, Dr. Emmanuel Erasto Mutakyakwa, and Ndeshimuni Mutakyahwa, let us also extend our deepest condolences to their families, friends, and loved ones. May their souls rest in eternal peace, and may their contributions never be forgotten.

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