TMDA
Tanzania Medicines & Medical Devices Authority

NewsLetter

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MANUFACTURING POWERHOUSE

Tanzania's Bold Pharmaceutical Transformation

NALA INCINERATOR

To Boost Public Health and Environmental Safety

ADR REPORTING IN TANZANIA SURGES

Review of Fees and Charges Regulations: Stakeholders Engagement

New Strategic Plan to Position TMDA for Dira 2050 Implementation

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcoming Note

From the Director General

Dear Esteemed Readers,

It is with great pleasure that we once again introduce to you this 15th edition of the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) Newsletter. This issue brings together a rich collection of stories and updates that reflect on the Authority's continued commitment to safeguarding public health while supporting national development goals.

Over the past months, TMDA has remained at the forefront of key initiatives aimed at strengthening regulation, promoting local manufacturing and improving access to safe and effective medical products. This Newsletter provides an overview of these milestones and achievements.

One of the major highlights covered in this edition is TMDA's active participation in the investment forum for pharmaceutical and medical product industries. Closely linked to this is the launch of the national taskforce dedicated to accelerating investment in pharmaceutical industries, a move expected to stimulate domestic production and reduce reliance on imports.

We also take pride in reporting on the Sixth TMDA Workers' Council meeting, which celebrated remarkable institutional achievements. The Council reflected on major reforms, improved service delivery and strengthened cooperation among staff, all of which continue to shape TMDA into a more effective and responsive regulatory body.

This issue further features congratulatory messages to the newly appointed leaders of the Ministry of Health. Their appointments mark a new chapter for the sector, and we highlight how the new leadership is anticipated to drive transformative reforms.

Strengthening regulatory oversight across the country remains a priority for TMDA. This Newsletter further reports on the TMDA Board's visit to customs offices in the Lake Western and Northern Zones, aimed at enhancing control of imported medical products. Readers will also learn about outreach initiatives encouraging potential investors to submit their intentions for establishing pharmaceutical factories in Tanzania.

Beyond core regulatory functions, TMDA continues to promote staff welfare and engagement. Our Sports Corner highlights plans to establish modern sports arenas at Kisongo and Njedengwa plots. We also recognise and celebrate TMDA retirees who dedicated their years of service to the institution.

Operational advancements are another key theme in this edition. We bring you updates on the commissioning of the Nala incinerator, the implementation of TMDA's new Strategic Plan, and evaluation results showing significant progress recorded over the past five years. These developments demonstrate TMDA's focus on ongoing improvement and long-term planning.

Capacity building has remained central to our work. Articles in this issue cover mental health training to staff, international cooperation through a study visit to Algeria, and engagements with global partners such as the Hunan Medical Products Administration of China.

Infrastructure development is equally showcased, including the launch of the Kwala dry port, inspection visits to medical device manufacturing plants, and the installation of an isolator to help in testing of medical products in Dar es Salaam and Mwanza laboratories.

Each of these stories reflect TMDA's unwavering dedication to protecting public health, promoting investment and ensuring that all medicines and medical devices in Tanzania meet the highest standards of quality, safety and effectiveness.

We invite you to explore the full range of articles in this Newsletter and share the progress being made. Your continued support and partnership remain vital as we work together to build a healthier and more prosperous Tanzania.

Enjoy your reading.

Dr. Adam Fimbo

Editorial Note

Welcome to the 15th Edition of the TMDA Newsletter!

Dear Valued Readers!

On behalf of the Editorial Team, I am pleased to present to you the 15th edition of the TMDA Newsletter, highlighting the Authority's latest developments and achievements.

I sincerely thank everyone who contributed to this publication. TMDA Management, Sections, and staff provided timely information, reports, and insights that enriched this edition. The initiatives featured—including investment in pharmaceutical manufacturing, regulatory strengthening, capacity building, and infrastructure development—reflect strong collaboration with government institutions, the private sector, and international partners.

I also acknowledge contributors who crafted articles, photographs, and technical updates. The stories in this edition showcase the breadth of TMDA's work—from laboratory advancements and inspections to staff welfare programmes and international engagements.

To our readers, your continued interest and feedback inspire us to maintain high standards and improve the quality and relevance of this Newsletter. We remain committed to delivering accurate, timely, and balanced content that reflects TMDA's activities, promotes transparency, and enhances public awareness of the regulation of medicines, medical devices and diagnostics.

Finally, I commend the editorial committee, designers, and communications personnel for their dedication in producing this edition in a clear and engaging format. As we prepare for future issues, we remain committed to providing comprehensive coverage of TMDA programmes, innovations, and partnerships.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to ensure the safety, quality, and effectiveness of medicines, medical devices, and diagnostics in Tanzania.

Gaudensia Simwanza

From Import Dependency to Manufacturing Powerhouse: Tanzania's Bold Pharmaceutical Transformation

For years, Tanzania's pharmacies, hospitals and clinics have been filled largely with medicines produced thousands of kilometres away. Boxes stamped with foreign labels have been the norm, while domestic factories struggled quietly on the margins of a market dominated by imports.

That story is now set for a dramatic rewrite. The Government has unveiled a sweeping new strategy designed to transform Tanzania from a heavy importer of medicines into a regional centre of pharmaceutical manufacturing. The plan is ambitious: to position the country as a trusted African hub for the production of high-quality, internationally certified medicines. It is a vision that touches on health security, industrial growth and national pride all at once.

The announcement was made on January 19th, 2026, during the Tanzania Health Products Investment Strategic Forum - a gathering that brought together policymakers, regulators, financiers and potential investors from across the world. At the heart of the event was a clear message from the Health Minister – Hon Mohamed Mchengerwa (Mp): Tanzania must take control of its pharmaceutical destiny.

"For too long, we have depended on medicines manufactured elsewhere," the Minister stressed to participants. "But national health security cannot be built on imports alone."

His words captured the frustration shared by many African countries that have watched global supply chains falter during crises, leaving millions vulnerable to shortages and soaring prices.

The new Pharmaceutical Acceleration Strategy is the government's answer to the impending vulnerability. "We realised that the problem was not lack of ambition," Mchengerwa lamented. "The problem was a system that made investment too slow and too complicated."

The Pharmaceutical Acceleration Strategy seeks to change the rhetoric fundamentally. Instead of forcing investors to move from one government office to another - first for land, then for licences, then for tax approvals - the new approach will bundle all key processes into a coordinated and simultaneous procedure.

Licensing, infrastructure provision, regulatory clearances and product registration will now be handled together, dramatically cutting the time needed to establish a factory.

To ensure this happens, the government has created a powerful coordination mechanism - the Pharmaceutical Investment Acceleration Taskforce (PIAT). This taskforce brings under one roof decision-makers from health, finance, land, energy, trade, regulatory agencies and public procurement bodies. Its mandate is simple but revolutionary – to remove bureaucratic bottlenecks and make investment work.

"Investors should not spend years chasing approvals," the Minister insisted. "With PIAT, strategic decisions will be made quickly and efficiently." Beyond internal reforms, Tanzania is actively courting international partners.

During the Forum, Minister Mchengerwa officially launched an Expression of Interest (EOI) inviting both local and global investors to establish pharmaceutical and health products manufacturing facilities in the country. The call encourages joint ventures, technology transfer and partnerships between Tanzanian companies and established global manufacturers. Applications will remain open until March 2, 2026. The goal is not only to produce basic medicines, but to move into more sophisticated "advanced generics" and modern formulations that meet global standards.

"We want Tanzania to become a producer and exporter of high-quality medicines for Africa," the Minister declared. Behind the economic arguments lies a deeper concern: the safety of patients. Mchengerwa spoke bluntly about the dangers posed by substandard and falsified medicines, which often find their way into markets that rely heavily on imports.

"Poor-quality medicines cost more than money - they cost lives," he said. "They lead to treatment failures, drug resistance and preventable deaths." By strengthening local production under strict regulatory oversight, the government hopes to reduce these risks and guarantee a stable supply of safe and effective medicines.

Perhaps the most reassuring message for investors was the government's commitment to protect the domestic market for manufacturers who meet international standards. "No investor will build a factory in Tanzania only to be suffocated by unfair imports," Mchengerwa promised.

He made it clear that public procurement systems, regulatory tools and fiscal policies would be aligned to give priority to locally produced medicines that meet WHO and TMDA GMP requirements.

For local entrepreneurs who have long complained about being undercut by cheap imports, the pledge signalled a major policy shift. The strategy goes beyond policy reforms. It also includes concrete plans to build physical infrastructure for the industry.

The government has earmarked areas in Mloganzila and Kibaha in the Coast Region as pharmaceutical manufacturing clusters - special zones designed to bring together factories, regulators, researchers and logistics services in one integrated environment.

Domestic manufacturers welcomed the new direction with cautious optimism. Mr. Bashiru Haruna, Chairperson of the Tanzania Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (TPMA), described the creation of the investment taskforce as a game-changer.

"For the first time, we are seeing a coordinated approach that addresses real challenges faced by investors," he said. Mr. Haruna believes the strategy will boost domestic production, create jobs and even stimulate medical tourism as confidence in Tanzanian-made medicines grows.

MAB Visits Rusumo and Mutukula Boarders

Members of the Ministerial Advisory Board (MAB) for TMDA paid a courtesy visit to the Rusumo and Mutukula boarders in Kagera region between 27th and 30th January 2026. This was part of the roles of Board to monitor and oversee control systems that are in place and whether they operate efficiently.

During this visit, members of MAB assessed the effectiveness of regulatory coordination among border agencies, reviewed inspection and clearance procedures, and gained first-hand insight into operational challenges faced by frontline officers responsible for regulating imported and exported health products. Discussions were held with TMDA inspectors, customs officials, and other law enforcing agencies operating at the borders during the visit.

Speaking during presentation of the performance report, the Officer in Charge of the Mutukula boarder, Mr. Lubinza Edmund, stated that the station hosts 20 regulatory institutions with a total of 116 staff members, including two inspectors from TMDA, who work collaboratively to detect and combat smuggling and ensure that goods entering the Tanzanian market comply with existing laws and regulations.

Mr. Lubinza further highlighted that one of the major challenges facing the station is the vast and porous nature of the border, which creates multiple unofficial entry points facilitating the illegal movement of goods. He emphasized the need for sustained cooperation and information sharing among border agencies to effectively address these challenges.

To conclude, Mr. Shitindi went on by saying the Government stands united, with every effort focused on serving our citizens. The Board is fully committed to this mission and will continue to work hand in hand with all border agencies. I call on all stakeholders to strengthen collaboration in addressing the challenges of cross-border trade and regulation. Together,

through shared commitment and coordinated efforts, we can ensure greater efficiency, stronger security, and lasting prosperity for our nation.

"As we move forward, let us remain vigilant and innovative, continuously seeking solutions that simplify processes, enhance transparency, and promote fair trade. By embracing a culture of cooperation, accountability, and forward-thinking, we will not only overcome today's challenges but also build a resilient system that serves our citizens and strengthens our nation for generations to come. Let us act with purpose, united in vision, and steadfast in our commitment to progress." Mr. Shitindi stressed.

The visit to the Rusumo and Mutukula One-Stop Border Posts, was led by the MAB Chairperson who was accompanied by other Board Members and TMDA Management team.

TMDA Supports Tanzania's Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Push at Investor's Forum

On 19th of January 2026, more than 450 domestic and international investors convened at Hyatt Hotel in Dar es Salaam for the Tanzania Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Investment Forum. During this memorable event, the Government of Tanzania pledged to create an enabling environment for investment in pharmaceutical manufacturing.

When opening the Forum, the Minister of Health Hon. Mohamed Omary Mchengerwa (Mp) underscored the government's readiness to shield both domestic and foreign investors from unfair competition resulting from an upsurge of imported medicines. "Tanzania does not call on you to invest and then leave you unprotected," the Minister stated. He added that investors who meet World Health Organization (WHO) standards and Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) requirements while producing medicines domestically are assured and guaranteed of government support.

Held under the theme "Unlocking Tanzania's Potential as a Regional Hub for Pharmaceutical Manufacturing," the Forum attracted investors from Tanzania and other foreign countries including Uganda, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Latvia, Pakistan, India, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Germany.

Minister Mchengerwa emphasized that the government's commitment is to ensure that domestically manufactured medicines are recognized and accepted in domestic, regional, and international markets, positioning Tanzania as a trusted hub for pharmaceutical production in Africa. "This is a strategic government decision to ensure Tanzania becomes self-reliant in the production of medicines, medical devices, and vaccines," he asserted. "After more than 60 years of independence, the independence we must fight on is the freedom to produce our own medicines."

The TMDA Director General Dr. Adam Fimbo affirmed the Authority's readiness to support investors in both pharmaceutical and medical devices manufacturing. He highlighted that this promise will align with the national policy that aims at safeguarding public health by ensuring citizens access good quality, safe, and effective medical products.

Tanzania aims to expand domestic pharmaceutical production from less than 20% of national demand to 60–65% by 2030, with a longer-term target of 80% by 2050. The government's strategy, part of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's broader industrial and health security agenda, seeks to reduce overreliance on imported medicines, medical supplies, and vaccines while boosting the domestic pharmaceutical sector.

The Forum marked a critical milestone in Tanzania's stride towards becoming a regional leader in pharmaceutical manufacturing, offering investors a clear framework of protection, support, and long-term economic growth.

Congratulations to the Newly Appointed Officials of the **Ministry of Health**

The TMDA congratulates Mr. Mohamed Mchengerwa on his appointment as the new Minister for Health, Dr. Florence Samizi on her appointment as Deputy Minister for Health, and Mr. Emmanuel Tayari as Deputy Permanent Secretary responsible for medicines and medical devices.

TMDA, as the institution mandated to regulate the quality, safety and effectiveness of medicines, medical devices, diagnostics and tobacco products, assures the newly appointed leaders of its full cooperation and support in achieving the goals of the health sector.

TMDA wishes them every success as they take up their new responsibilities.

Mohamed Mchengerwa (Mp)
Health Minister,

Dr. Florence Samizi (Mp)
Deputy Health Minister,

Mr. Emmanuel Tayari
Deputy Permanent Secretary for Medicines and Medical Devices

TMDA Showcases Pharmaceutical Investment Opportunities at IATF 2025

The 4th Intra-African Trade Fair of 2025 (IATF 2025), was staged at the SAFEX Exhibition Center in Algiers, Algeria, between 4th and 10th of September 2025. TMDA joined other nine (9) Tanzanian based institutions representing the country at this continental trade event.

The Tanzanian contingent was led by the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Dr. Suleiman Serera, who commended on the well-organized coordination in the build-up to the trade fair.

During the exhibition, TMDA focused on promoting investment opportunities in the pharmaceutical and medical devices sector while providing regulatory guidance on market entry requirements in Tanzania. Visitors to the Tanzanian Pavilion were acquainted with comprehensive information on regulatory procedures for the registration, importation, and local manufacturing of medicines and medical devices.

Engagements with pharmaceutical manufacturers participating in the fair were also held, including SARL Laboratories Salem, First REmed, Socothyd, Novuspharm (Algeria), and Charfeddine (Tunisia). These companies sought clarification on regulatory requirements and investment opportunities in Tanzania and expressed interest in establishing business partnerships and investing in the country's pharmaceutical sector.

In addition, TMDA participated in Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings held alongside the exhibition, which brought together manufacturers, regulators, and investors from across Africa to deliberate on pharmaceutical production, import and export opportunities, and cross-border trade.

Through its participation in IATF 2025, TMDA strengthened its institutional visibility at the continental level, expanded its network with African pharmaceutical manufacturers and regulators, and positioned Tanzania as a competitive destination for pharmaceutical and medical devices investment. The engagement also enabled TMDA to attract potential investors interested in product registration, domestic manufacturing, and technology transfer, while enhancing awareness of Tanzania's regulatory framework and overall market potential.

Moreover, the exhibition accorded TMDA with a platform to gather insights on emerging trends in pharmaceutical manufacturing and intra-African trading, supporting the Authority's efforts to promote regulatory harmonization and improving market access to good quality, safe and efficacious products.

The Intra-African Trade Fair is organized after every two years, with the 2025 edition attracting eight Heads of State, 20 Vice Presidents, 2,148 exhibitors from 132 countries, 112,000 physical visitors, and 225,000 online participants. The 5th IATF is scheduled to take place in Nigeria in 2027.

TMDA Deepens Pharmaceutical Cooperation with Algeria

The TMDA team of experts was engaged in a regulatory and investment promotion mission to Algeria between 4th and 10th September 2025, aimed at deepening cooperation, promoting pharmaceutical investment, and enhancing access to affordable essential medicines in Tanzania.

The mission was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Medical Stores Department (MSD), and was coordinated by the Embassy of the United Republic of Tanzania in Algeria under the leadership of H.E. Ambassador Imani Njalikai.

Led by the Director General of TMDA, Dr. Adam Fimbo, the delegation paid an official visit to the Ministry of Pharmaceutical Industry of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, where a high-level discussion with the Minister of Pharmaceutical Industry, H.E. Ouacim Kouidri took place. The talks focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation in pharmaceutical regulation, manufacturing, and investment.

According to Dr. Fimbo, the visit sought to establish collaborative frameworks that would improve the availability and affordability of essential medicines in Tanzania. He noted that both countries reaffirmed their commitment to cooperation in pharmaceutical manufacturing, regulatory experience sharing, professional training, and investment in the pharmaceutical industry.

The delegation also visited the Algerian National Agency for Pharmaceutical Products (ANPP), where the Director General, Dr. Cherif Delih, expressed readiness to collaborate closely with TMDA. Areas of potential cooperation discussed included training on inspection of medical devices using advanced technologies, as well as strengthening regulatory systems to enable ANPP to achieve the World Health Organization (WHO) Maturity Level 3 (ML3), a milestone attained by TMDA in 2018.

In addition, the TMDA and Ministry of Health team visited seven major pharmaceutical manufacturers, including Biopharm, Sophal Group, Orion Laboratories, Saidal, Frater-Raizes, and Biocare. These companies produce a wide range of medicines for cardiovascular diseases, oncology, infectious diseases, neurology, endocrinology, pediatrics, and hospital use.

It was noted that several of the visited companies already export medicines to African markets and expressed strong interest in registering their products with TMDA, supplying medicines to Tanzania at affordable prices, and establishing pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities in Tanzania—starting with secondary packaging and gradually expanding to full-scale production.

The mission further highlighted Algeria's strong growth in the pharmaceutical sector, supported by investment incentives, reliable utilities, and policies that protect and promote Algerian manufacturers. These experiences offer valuable lessons for strengthening Tanzania's pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity.

Reflecting on the tour, H.E. Ambassador Imani Njalikai highlighted the opportunities available in Algeria, noting that "by offering industrial training opportunities to Tanzanian students and professionals, some manufacturers are directly contributing to skills development and technology transfer, which are critical for sustainable industrial growth."

Dr. Fimbo stated that TMDA will leverage the identified opportunities by formalizing cooperation through memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Algerian regulatory authorities, enhancing investor support through technical guidance and efficient regulatory processes, promoting regulatory harmonization across Africa, and facilitating capacity building and technology transfer.

Overall, the mission to Algeria yielded significant outcomes, with Algerian authorities and pharmaceutical manufacturers expressing readiness to collaborate with Tanzania. Strengthening this cooperation is expected to enhance access to good quality, safe, effective, and affordable medicines, support domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing, and contribute to the growth of Tanzania's health products sector.

TMDA Reaffirms Support to **Domestic Medical Devices Manufacturers**

The TMDA has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting domestic industries in the manufacturing of medical devices and diagnostics that meet international standards.

Speaking during the scheduled Management visit at medical devices manufacturing facilities in the Dar es Salaam and Coast regions between 10th and 12th December, 2025, TMDA Director General Dr. Adam Fimbo stated that the tour was intended to review ongoing production activities, assess compliance with regulatory standards, and evaluate the effectiveness of technical support offered by the Authority.

Dr. Fimbo noted that TMDA is implementing a Five-Year Action Plan (2022/23–2026/27) aimed at promoting domestic manufacturing of medical devices and diagnostics. Under the Plan, TMDA provides technical guidance to investors from the early stages of facility design and development to ensure compliance with professional, safety, and international quality standards. He further encouraged manufacturers to conduct thorough market assessments to align production with national demands.

Dr. Fimbo explained that where domestic production capacity is sufficient to meet country needs, the Ministry would consider to restrict imports of similar products to protect and promote local industries. He cited the restriction on imported IV infusions as an example of such move.

Speaking during the factory tour, the Director of Medical Devices and Diagnostics Control, Dr. Kissa Mwamwitwa, assured manufacturers that TMDA is ready to offer technical support whenever the need arises. She alluded that the Authority's goal is to work closely with manufacturers to help them meet quality audit requirements and produce products that are safe, performing, and of good quality.

Owners and representatives of visited factories, including Canadian Biotech Limited, Kas Biotech Ltd, Action Medior, MUHAS Emerging Technologies for Health and Medical Dawalia Limited, commended TMDA for its regulatory guidance, noting that it has enabled them to streamline processes and expedited their manufacturing operations.

"Commending the TMDA's visit, the Chief Executive Officer of Canadian Biotech Limited, Dr. Bartazary John, praised the Authority for its efficient registration process and the regulatory guidance offered to manufacturers."

"We thank TMDA for its support, which enabled our factory to obtain marketing authorizations within a short period. We have already received provisional registration for hepatitis diagnostic reagents, and we are confident that the registration of other products currently under evaluation will be completed on time," Dr. Bartazary lamented.

TMDA emphasized that continued collaboration with domestic manufacturers is critical to strengthening Tanzania's medical devices and diagnostics industry, reducing reliance on imports, and ensuring the availability of quality, safe, and affordable health products for the public.

TMDA Hosts SALAMA Madagascar for Technical Exchange Mission

On 12th of February 2026, TMDA welcomed a delegation from SALAMA Madagascar Central Medical Stores for a technical exchange mission aimed at enhancing regulatory cooperation and knowledge sharing between the two institutions.

> Representing the Director General of TMDA, Ms. Sophia Mziray, Manager of the Eastern Zone, reiterated the Authority's commitment to regional collaboration.

The visit which was held in Dar es Salaam, focused on exchanging experiences on technical and regulatory challenges faced by medicines and medical supplies regulators. TMDA shared presentations and discussions on key aspects of regulatory operations, including its medicines registration process. Delegates were also taken on a guided tour of TMDA's state-of-the-art laboratory facilities, which plays a pivotal role in generating scientific evidence to support regulatory decision-making.

Representing the Director General of TMDA, Ms. Sophia Mziray, Manager of the Eastern Zone, reiterated the Authority's commitment to regional collaboration. She assured the visiting team that TMDA remains open to continued cooperation, highlighting the shared mission of both institutions to protect public health and serve their communities.

"This knowledge exchange strengthens our collective ability to ensure access to safe and effective health products," Ms. Mziray alluded to, expressing TMDA's readiness to support mutual learning initiatives.

The Madagascar delegation was led by Dr. Soafara Andrianome, Head of Pharmacy in Madagascar, who expressed appreciation for TMDA's hospitality and commended the insights gained throughout the visit. Dr. Andrianome noted that the shared experiences would support ongoing efforts to strengthen regulatory systems in Madagascar.

TMDA is recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a Maturity Level 3 regulatory authority under the WHO Global Benchmarking Tool, demonstrating a stable, well-functioning and integrated regulatory system that meets international standards for the oversight of medicines, and positioning TMDA as the centre of excellence in regulatory practice in Africa.

ADR Reporting in Tanzania Surges as Awareness and Training Bolstered

Tanzania has recorded a dramatic upward trend in reports of adverse drug reactions (ADRs) linked to medicines and vaccines, rising from about 200 reports in 2020 to more than 10,000 annually. The surge reflects growing awareness and active participation by healthcare professionals in monitoring the safety of health products.

The improvement has been attributed to joint awareness-raising initiatives and capacity-building trainings conducted by the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) in collaboration with the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS). These efforts form part of TMDA's post-marketing surveillance (PMS) strategy to ensure the quality, safety, and effectiveness of health products after they are approved for use.

The statistics were presented on 19th September 2025 in Mwanza by the Director of Short Courses at MUHAS, Dr. Betty Maganda, during a specialized training session aimed at strengthening the capacity of doctors, pharmacists, nurses, researchers, and other healthcare professionals to accurately report ADRs.

Dr. Maganda lamented that the increase in reporting is the result of sustained collaboration between TMDA and MUHAS, which has embraced training healthcare workers, medicines importers, manufacturers, and research institutions nationwide. She noted that, initially, limited knowledge of how to complete and submit ADR reporting forms was a major challenge.

"After conducting an assessment, we noted that low awareness of the reporting process was the main obstacle. Since 2020, we have rolled out these trainings, and so far more than 400 trainers across the country have been trained and cascaded the knowledge to other professionals," Dr. Maganda stressed.

She added that the trainings have enhanced the ability of healthcare professionals to identify and correctly report ADRs associated with health products used in healthcare facilities. The reports are submitted to TMDA and shared with the World Health Organization (WHO) for further analysis and regulatory action(s).

Speaking at the same event, the Acting Manager of TMDA's Eastern Lake Zone, Mr. Venance Burushi, emphasized that ADR reporting is a key component of PMS designed to protect users of health products after registration and approval.

He explained that while medicines and vaccines undergo rigorous testing before approval, their performance in real-world settings may differ from clinical trial results.

"Once a product is on the market, continuous monitoring becomes critical. Health professionals trained through this programme play a vital role in collecting information that enables TMDA to assess the quality, safety, and effectiveness of health products during actual use," Mr. Burushi underlined.

He added that timely ADR reporting allows TMDA to detect unsafe products early and take appropriate regulatory actions to safeguard public health.

Participants in the training welcomed the initiative. Mr. Nyegoro Magoti, a pharmacist from Magu District Hospital in Mwanza Region, said the training introduced new approaches to monitoring medicine's and vaccine's safety and strengthened the culture of ADR reporting.

Similarly, Mr. Noel Chacha, a pharmacist from the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC), described the training as highly valuable and recommended that ADR reporting be incorporated into health training curricula so that future professionals understand their responsibilities early in their careers.

Through these ongoing efforts, TMDA continues to strengthen Tanzania's national system for monitoring ADRs, helping to ensure that medicines and other health products used in the country remain safe, effective, and of high quality.

The 6th TMDA Workers' Council Concludes its Term with Notable **Achievements**

The Sixth Workers' Council of TMDA convened its final meeting on 6th of February 2026 in Morogoro Municipality, before ending its three years tenure in April 2026.

The meeting deliberated on key institutional matters, including the newly crafted TMDA Five-Year Strategic Plan (2026/27–2030/31), the Draft Budget for the financial year 2026/27, and the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Framework.

In his closing remarks, the Chairperson of the Council and TMDA Director General, Dr. Adam Fimbo, commended the Council for its achievements and dedication during the term.

Dr. Fimbo emphasized that the Council's contributions have been central to strengthening TMDA's performance and safeguarding public health.

"The Workers' Council is a critical platform for transparency and participation in institutional decision-making. The ideas and recommendations from the Council have greatly contributed to strengthening operational systems and safeguarding public health," Dr. Fimbo lamented.

During its three-year tenure, the Sixth Workers' Council oversaw significant institutional milestones. These include the completion of expansion of TMDA Headquarter offices in Dodoma, supervision of the construction of an incinerator for disposal of unfit products at Nala, and the renovation of staff houses at Namanga and Tarakea borders. The Council also guided the acquisition of nine plots of land for future development and ensured maintenance of ISO 9001:2015 certification and ISO 17025 laboratory accreditation.

Under the Council's tenure, TMDA earned recognition as the Centre of Excellence for Drug Registration (CEDR) and Vaccines Oversight in Africa. Staff numbers grew from 256 to 478, while the Authority's budget sky-rocketed from TZS 35 to 60 billion. The Council also oversaw the implementation of major projects such as ASCEND, PAVIA, PROFOMA, BREEDIME, RER-CTO, Grand Challenge and AU3S valued at TZS 4.2 billion.

In addition, the Council advocated for promotion of conducive environment for investment in the pharmaceutical and medical device industries, encouraged staff participation in sports welfare including SHIMMUTA competitions, and pushed for staff remunerations and improved incentive scheme.

Dr. Fimbo thanked Council members for their valuable contributions and constructive opinions, underscoring that employees remain a vital pillar of TMDA and central to the Authority's success. He noted that the Workers' Council has strengthened unity, accountability, and open dialogue between the Management and staff, bolstering efficiency in regulating medicines, medical devices, diagnostics, and other products critical to public health.

The Seventh Workers' Council is expected to be in force in April 2026, with its first meeting scheduled for September 2026.

TMDA reaffirmed its commitment to continue using the Workers' Council as a platform for inclusive decision-making, fostering a positive working environment, and delivering quality services to the public.

Review of Fees and Charges Regulations: Stakeholders Engagement

The Authority has taken a major step towards strengthening its regulatory framework and improving the business environment by engaging key stakeholders in the review of the Fees and Charges Regulations of 2021 (GN No. 686).

The review follows deliberations by the Ministerial Advisory Board (MAB) during its Third Meeting held on 22nd – 23rd of February 2024, where the Board endorsed the review and directed that proposed amendments be tabled before stakeholders for comments before submission to the Minister of Health for approval.

In line with this directive, TMDA convened a stakeholder's consultative meeting in Dar es Salaam on 26th January 2026, to discuss the proposed amendments, bringing together industry players and other key partners.

Speaking during the meeting, TMDA Director General, Dr. Adam Fimbo, briefed attendees on the proposed changes and emphasized the importance of stakeholder input in shaping responsive and effective regulations.

"Stakeholders engagement is critical in ensuring that our regulatory framework remains fair, transparent, and supportive of sector growth while safeguarding public health," asserted Dr. Fimbo, as he invited participants to share their views and inputs.

During the discussions, stakeholders proposed several measures aimed at reducing the cost burden on applicants and promoting fair competition in the pharmaceutical and medical devices sectors. These included reductions in registration, notification, and retention fees for medicines, medical devices, diagnostics, and disinfectants; removal of certain application and advertising fees; abolition of charges for performance evaluation of diagnostics; withdrawal of the proposed 20 percent FOB import fee; and replacement of selected statutory fees with a Price List for voluntary services.

TMDA Management reviewed the proposals and agreed with the majority of the recommendations, noting that the proposed changes would enhance the business environment without compromising the Authority's operational effectiveness.

The Management also endorsed the introduction of a Price List for voluntary services, which covers charges for training, accreditation, incineration of unfit products, laboratory services for non-regulated products, conference facilities and office premises at the Lake Zone Office in Mwanza.

The proposed amendments and the Price List will be submitted to TMDA's internal governance organs, including the Ministerial Advisory Board, before onward submission to the Minister of Health for final approval.

Through this consultative process, TMDA continues to demonstrate its commitment to collaboration, transparency, and inclusive decision-making. The approach ensures that regulatory reforms are responsive to sector needs, foster trust between the Authority, industry, and the public, and support access to quality, safe, and effective medicines and medical devices while encouraging domestic investment and sustainable growth in Tanzania's health products sector.

TMDA Trains Management on Mental Health to Strengthen Workplace Well-Being

The Authority conducted a mental health training session for members of its Management team on 4th of February 2026, reaffirming the Authority's commitment to employee well-being and promotion of a supportive and healthy workplace environment.

The training was facilitated by Dr. Japhet Swai, a Clinical Psychologist from Mirembe National Mental Health Hospital (MNMH). It focused on enhancing awareness of mental health challenges at workplace, strengthening leadership capacity to identify early signs of stress and burnout, and equipping managers with practical skills to support staff experiencing mental health hurdles. The facilitator also emphasized the importance of cultivating an open organizational culture that encourages dialogue, resilience, and timely access to professional mental health support services.

Speaking to TMDA directors and managers before the training, Director General Dr. Adam Fimbo highlighted the critical role of mental health in institutional development.

'Mental health is a vital pillar and an essential resource for the development of the institution, its staff, and the nation as a whole. Achieving and sustaining good mental health requires continuous empowerment through training that enables personnel to make informed decisions, plan effectively, and implement strategies that support both personal growth and institutional development," said Dr. Fimbo.

Participants commended the training for its practical approach to stress management, work–life balance, and effective communication within teams. Mr. Damas Matiko, Manager for Clinical Trials and Pharmacovigilance, recommended that such training be conducted annually and extended to all staff, noting that it significantly improves individual well-being and teamwork.

The Authority reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening workplace wellness programmes that foster a healthy, inclusive, and high-performing work environment.

Medicines Donation by TMDA Boosts Healthcare Services in Mwanza Prisons

As part of its ongoing commitment to safeguarding public health and expanding access to quality healthcare for special groups, the TMDA Eastern Lake Zone on 12th of August 2025 donated medicines to the Prisons Service in Mwanza Region.

Speaking during the handing-over ceremony, the Acting Manager of TMDA Eastern Lake Zone, Mr. Aggrey Muhabuki, said the donation is part of TMDA's routine support to prisons in the region, aimed at addressing persistent shortages of essential medicines. He noted that the Authority believes the donated medicines will significantly improve healthcare services for inmates and remand prisoners across Mwanza region, adding that TMDA will continue to offer such support in line with its capacity.

Representing the Mwanza Regional Commissioner, the District Commissioner for Nyamagana, Ms. Amina Makilagi, praised TMDA for the initiative, saying it aligns with the vision of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces to ensure equitable access to quality healthcare for all citizens. She called on other institutions to follow TMDA's example by extending support to inmates and other vulnerable groups.

On behalf of the Commissioner General of the Prisons Service, the Regional Prisons Officer for Mwanza Region, SACP Masudi Juma Kimolo, expressed appreciation to TMDA and the Office of the District Commissioner for the support. He assured stakeholders that the donated medicines would be used strictly for their intended purpose.

SACP Kimolo further noted that prisons and remand facilities across Mwanza region continue to experience high demand for medicines, and emphasized that the donation will play a vital role in improving healthcare services for persons in custody.

Through this initiative, TMDA reaffirms its commitment to collaboration with government institutions in enhancing healthcare delivery, particularly for groups with special needs, in line with its mandate to ensure the availability of safe, quality, and effective health products.

Strengthening Healthcare Regulation:
TMDA's Featured Publications Continue to Gain Momentum to Inform Global Practice

In a strong demonstration of scientific leadership and regulatory excellence, researchers and scientists at TMDA have continued to advance global knowledge through a series of peer-reviewed publications. These scholarly contributions underscore TMDA's unwavering commitment to safeguarding public health while showcasing its technical expertise in the regulation of medical products and oversight of research activities.

The recent publication covers a broad spectrum of critical regulatory domains, including: the Effectiveness of the TMDA Community Health Education Programme in Enhancing Awareness and Safe Use of Erectile Dysfunction Medicines, a Comprehensive Assessment of Quality of Antimalarial Medicines in Mainland Tanzania: Insights from Five Years of Post-marketing Surveillance Programme and Regulatory Performance of African National Medicines Regulatory Authorities Achieving WHO Maturity Level 3: Identifying Best Practices. Collectively, they represent years of data-driven efforts by TMDA to ensure the safety, quality, and efficacy of medical products used in the country.

These publications, accessible and citable across major search engines and academic databases, reinforce TMDA's commitment to information sharing regarding the monitoring of medical products in Tanzania. They offer critical insights that support policymakers and the public in understanding the safety, efficacy, utilization, and prescribing patterns of medicines, including instances of misuse.

By disseminating these findings globally, TMDA not only contributes to international knowledge exchange but also promotes evidence-based decision-making, collaborative research, and regulatory transparency. Additional innovative studies are currently in progress, and their outcomes will similarly be shared publicly, further strengthening TMDA's role in advancing science.

TMDA Completes Nala Incinerator to Boost Public Health and Environmental Safety

TMDA has completed the construction and installation of a state-of-the-art incinerator for the disposal of unfit medicines, medical devices, reagents, and healthcare waste at Nala area in Dodoma region. This milestone marks a significant step in strengthening public health protection and safeguarding the environment.

The project, implemented by TMDA in collaboration with Medical Stores Department (MSD) and Intertrade UK, is part of the Authority's strategic efforts to establish sustainable infrastructure for the safe disposal of unfit health products.

Speaking on the importance of the facility, the Director for Medicines Control, Dr. Yonah Mwalwisi, emphasized that the operationalization of the Nala incinerator represents a critical step in enhancing regulatory control beyond product approval.

"The availability of this incinerator enables TMDA to safely and effectively dispose unfit, expired, falsified, or substandard health products from circulation. This is a critical component of post-marketing control and a key safeguard for public health and environmental protection," said Dr. Mwalwisi.

In parallel with the installation, TMDA conducted training on the operation and preventive maintenance of the incinerator, led by an engineer from the supplier. Four TMDA staff members, including a mechanical technician, participated in the training, which aimed at strengthening internal capacity to operate the facility in compliance with safety and efficiency standards.

Dr. Mwalwisi emphasized that building operational capacity is crucial for ensuring the long-term sustainability of the facility.

"Beyond infrastructure, we have prioritized capacity building to ensure the incinerator is operated safely, efficiently, and in full compliance with regulatory and environmental standards. This will guarantee sustainability and accountability in the disposal process," he said.

Prior to full operationalization, performance qualification tests are scheduled for March 2026 to confirm the incinerator's ability to safely dispose of unfit health products in accordance with established standards. To ensure uninterrupted operations, TMDA has stationed a standby generator to support the incinerator, enhancing the reliability and continuity of disposal services.

According to the Incinerator Operations Manual, overall operational guidance will be under the Director General, while day-to-day management will be coordinated by the Directorate of Medicines Control through the Medicines Control and Inspection Section.

The Nala incinerator brings multiple benefits to Tanzanians. By safely disposing of expired and substandard medicines, it will directly reduce the risk of harmful products reaching patients, thereby improving public health. The facility will also protect the environment by ensuring that hazardous healthcare waste is destroyed in a controlled manner, preventing contamination to the soil, water, and air.

Moreover, the incinerator will help to curb the circulation of unfit health products for human consumption, strengthening consumer confidence in medicines and medical devices. Beyond that, it will enhance community safety by minimizing accidental exposure to toxic substances among healthcare workers and the general public.

TMDA calls on all healthcare facilities, pharmacies, and other relevant stakeholders to utilize the Nala incinerator for the safe disposal of unfit medicines, medical devices, and healthcare wastes. By doing so, the community will actively contribute to protecting public health, safeguarding the environment, and ensuring a safer healthcare system for all Tanzanians.

With the Nala incinerator now in place, TMDA strengthens its commitment to protecting Tanzanians from harmful health products, promoting environmental sustainability, and ensuring the integrity of the nation's healthcare system.

TMDA Crackdown on Unauthorized Sale of Medicines in Public Transport

TMDA has conducted strategic awareness campaign targeting the illegal sale and promotion of medicines within public transport vehicles, citing serious risks to public health.

On 7th October 2025, the Authority conducted targeted training to bus drivers and conductors at the College of Business Education (CBE) and the National Institute of Transportation (NIT) in Dar es Salaam, to acquaint them with the knowledge on medicines and how risky it is to engage in such malpractice.

Speaking during the training, TMDA Eastern Zone Manager, Ms. Sophia Mziray, highlighted a disturbing trend of individuals boarding buses, trains, and ferries to sell unregistered medical products using misleading advertisements.

"It is strictly prohibited to sell or advertise medicines inside transport vehicles," Ms. Mziray warned. "Medicines must only be sold in TMDA-approved pharmacies under the supervision of qualified healthcare professionals. Selling medicines haphazardly is not only illegal but can also be life-threatening."

Ms. Mziray noted that many peddlers market unregistered products claiming to treat sensitive health conditions such as male impotence, stomach ulcers, or bodily detoxification. She emphasized that these substances can cause antimicrobial resistance, severe organ damage, or even death.

TMDA further reminded transport stakeholders that the illegal sale of medicines violates the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Act, Cap 219, which criminalizes the distribution or promotion of medicinal products without explicit authorization from the Authority.

The Authority called on bus owners, drivers, and conductors to take responsibility for their vehicles. "Every transporter has a duty to protect their passengers. We expect full cooperation to ensure that buses are no longer used as marketplaces for unregulated medicines," Ms. Mziray added.

This training is part of TMDA's ongoing public awareness campaign targeting bus terminals and transit hubs, aimed at educating citizens about the hazards of purchasing medicines outside registered pharmacies and promoting safe, and legal access to essential health products.

TMDA Hosts Chinese Regulators to Strengthen Cooperation in Medical Products Regulation

On 4th September, 2025, TMDA hosted a delegation from the Hunan Medical Products Administration (HMPA) of the People's Republic of China, marking an important step towards strengthening bilateral cooperation in the regulation of medical products.

The HMPA delegation which were led by Mr. Qin Yongzhong, Deputy Director - General, aimed at enhancing collaboration and promote the exchange of experience and best practices in the regulation of medicines, medical devices, and related health products.

TMDA highlighted Tanzania's robust regulatory environment and the Authority's mandate to ensure the safety, quality, and efficacy of medicines and medical devices available in the country.

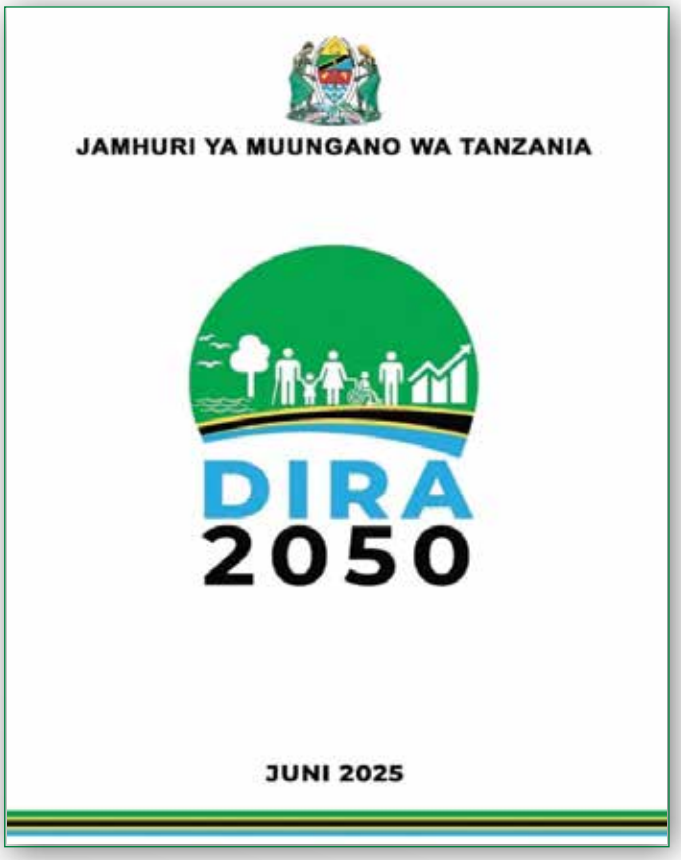
Speaking during the presentation, Dr. Danstan Shewiyo, TMDA Director of Laboratory Services, representing the Director General, highlighted on several key milestones. He alluded to "Attaining WHO Maturity Level 3 (ML3) certification in 2018 demonstrates that TMDA is a well-functioning regulatory authority with advanced systems for overseeing medical products. This milestone depicts our credibility and positions Tanzania as a trusted partner for international collaboration," he said.

On the flip side, the HMPA head of delegation, presented China's regulatory approaches, innovations, and experiences in overseeing a rapidly growing medical products in China. The discussions explored opportunities for future cooperation, including capacity building, information sharing, technical support, and guidance for manufacturers seeking marketing authorization in both jurisdictions. Emphasis was placed on regulatory harmonization and the introduction of good quality, safe and effective medical products to improve public health outcomes.

The HMPA delegation was represented by Mr. Qin Yongzhong (Deputy Director - General), Mr. Zeng Sanping (Director of Pharmaceutical Distribution Supervision and Administration Division), Mr. Liu Yi (Director of Human Resources Division), Mr. Wu Jingzheng (Deputy Director of Pharmaceutical Registration Management and Technology Division), Mr. Wu Dong (Deputy Director of the Cosmetics Supervision and Administration Division) and Mr. Zhao Changjun (Inspector Level 2 of the Inspection Branch).

The visit underscored the shared commitment of TMDA and HMPA to strengthen regulatory systems and fostering international cooperation in medical products regulation. Both sides expressed optimism that the engagement would pave the way for sustained collaboration and mutually beneficial partnerships in the years ahead.

New Strategic Plan to Position TMDA for Dira 2050 Implementation



... the new plan is anchored on TMDA's Vision of "Improved health and wellbeing for all Tanzanians through regulatory excellence that meets global standards," and its Mission to protect public health by ensuring quality, safety and effectiveness of health products.

The TMDA has formulated a new five-year Strategic Plan designed to strengthen regulation of health products while aligning the Authority with Tanzania's long-term development priorities under the National Development Vision (Dira) 2050.

Chairperson of the TMDA Ministerial Advisory Board, Mr. Eric Shitindi, asserted that the Strategic Plan for 2026/27–2030/31 provides a comprehensive and forward-looking framework that will guide the Authority in fulfilling its statutory mandate of regulating medicines, medical devices, diagnostics and tobacco products.

Mr. Shitindi explained that the plan has been developed at a critical period when Tanzania is shifting towards a people-centered development model focused on industrialisation, technological advancement and strong public institutions.

"The role of TMDA as a trusted and competent regulator is increasingly important in safeguarding patient safety, strengthening public confidence in health products and enabling a well-regulated and competitive health products market," he lamented.

He noted that the new blueprint reflects national development priorities, lessons learnt from the outgoing Strategic Plan, emerging regulatory risks and the need for stronger institutional effectiveness and accountability.

"The Board is satisfied that this Strategic Plan provides a realistic and coherent strategic direction. It articulates clear objectives and priorities that will guide the Management and staff in delivering measurable results," Mr. Shitindi added.

The Chairperson emphasized that successful implementation of the Plan will require collective commitment from TMDA Management, staff, regulated stakeholders and strategic partners. He pledged the Board's full support in providing oversight and policy guidance to ensure smooth execution.

On his part, TMDA Director General, Dr. Adam Fimbo, alluded to that the Authority operates in an increasingly complex environment marked by rapid technological changes, growth in local pharmaceutical manufacturing and expanding international trade.

"In this environment, TMDA requires a clear and comprehensive strategic direction to effectively discharge its mandate and respond to emerging regulatory risks and opportunities," Dr Fimbo stated.

He explained that the new plan is anchored on TMDA's Vision of "Improved health and wellbeing for all Tanzanians through regulatory excellence that meets global standards," and its Mission to protect public health by ensuring quality, safety and effectiveness of health products.

Dr. Fimbo stressed that experience from previous strategic plans has shown that disciplined execution of well-articulated strategies is essential for institutional stability and improved performance.

The new Strategic Plan outlines seven major objectives that will guide TMDA over the next five years.

The first objective focuses on reducing HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, Hepatitis B and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) among staff while improving related health services. This aims at strengthening workplace wellness programme, routine health screening and preventive interventions to ensure a healthy and productive workforce capable of delivering regulatory services effectively.

The second objective seeks to enhance and sustain implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy. Given the sensitive nature of regulatory decisions, TMDA plans to intensify transparency, strengthen integrity systems and reinforce internal controls to minimize corruption risks and build greater public trust in its operations.

Under the third objective, TMDA will mainstream gender and improve the environmental ecosystem. The Authority intends to promote gender inclusion in leadership positions, improve accessibility of infrastructure and strengthen environmental management practices, particularly in waste disposal and sustainable resources use.

The fourth objective aims at assuring quality, safety and effectiveness of medicinal and tobacco products. This will involve closing efficiency gaps in product registration, inspection and enforcement to ensure that only good quality, safe and effective products reach the Tanzanian market.

The fifth objective focuses on assuring quality, safety and performance of medical devices and diagnostics. Recognizing the growing risks in this sector, TMDA plans to enhance inspection regimes, tighten controls on special import permits and expand post-marketing surveillance to curb the circulation of falsified and substandard devices.

The sixth objective seeks to improve and strengthen laboratory services. The plan prioritizes expansion of accredited analytical methods, improved testing capacity at the Mwanza laboratory and investment in modern equipment and human resources to meet rising demand for laboratory analysis.

The seventh and final objective is aimed at improving the Authority's overall capacity to deliver regulatory services. This includes staff training, digitalization of services, strengthening risk management systems and infrastructure development, including opening of regional offices.

Dr. Fimbo noted that the inclusion of staff health and wellness programme as a strategic objective reflects the Authority's recognition that a healthy workforce is critical for effective regulation.

"For TMDA, whose mandate requires highly skilled personnel and sustained regulatory vigilance, the wellbeing of staff is a key enabler of institutional performance," he said.

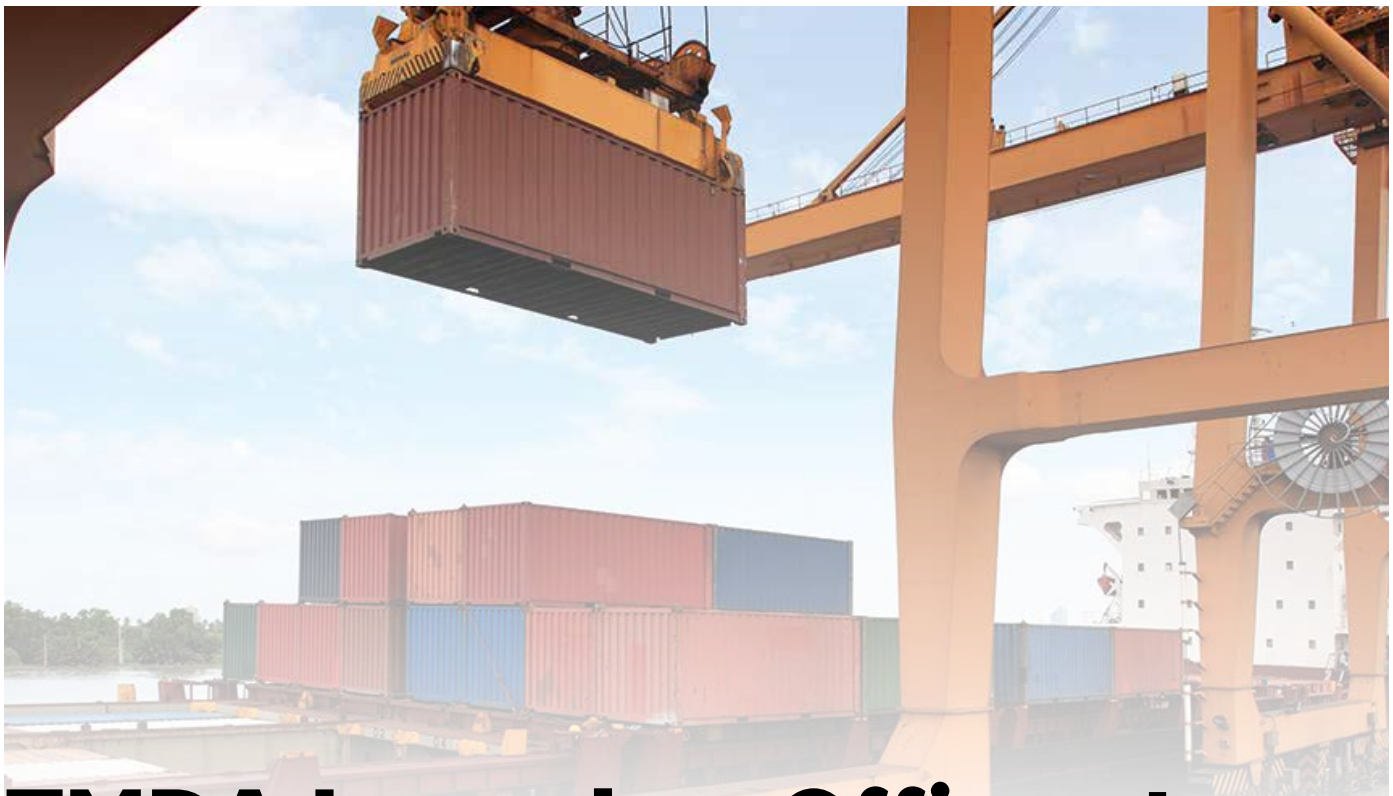
He added that the new strategy builds on significant achievements recorded under the outgoing Strategic Plan of 2021/22–2025/26, which delivered substantial progress across several regulatory and institutional areas.

According to Dr. Fimbo, TMDA achieved approximately 90 per cent efficiency in processing applications for registration of medicines, medical devices and diagnostics within prescribed timelines. Premises registration and inspection performance averaged 94 per cent, demonstrating strengthened oversight of pharmacies, Accredited Drug Dispensing Outlets (ADDOs) and manufacturing sites.

In the area of pharmacovigilance, TMDA surpassed global benchmarks. In the 2024/25 financial year alone, the Authority received 19,702 Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR) reports - far above the World Health Organization (WHO) benchmark of 12,000 reports annually. Reporting of Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFIs) also improved significantly, reaching 7,017 reports against the benchmark of 6,000.

Laboratory services were another major success during the period. Testing coverage for medicines and diagnostics averaged nearly 100 per cent, while equipment calibration and maintenance consistently remained at full compliance, ensuring reliability and credibility of regulatory decisions.

Institutionally, TMDA strengthened financial sustainability by collecting an average of 103 per cent of projected revenues and implementing work plans at a 99 per cent success rate. Internal audits and quality management systems were fully maintained, reinforcing governance, accountability and service efficiency.



TMDA Launches Office at Kwala Dry Port to Streamline Cargo Clearance

TMDA has officially opened a new inspection office at the Kwala Dry Port in Kibaha District - a move aimed at accelerating cargo clearance and reducing traffic congestion in the nation's commercial capital - Dar es Salaam.

The Kwala Port, inaugurated by President Samia Suluhu Hassan on 31st of July 2025, is part of a strategic initiative to transform Tanzania into a regional logistics hub. During the launch, President Samia directed all key service providers from Dar es Salaam Port to establish physical operations at Kwala to streamline freight handling. "Institutions providing services at the Dar es Salaam Port should open offices in Kwala starting Monday to simplify service delivery and reduce traffic congestion in Dar es Salaam city," the President stressed.

Responding to the presidential directive, TMDA Director General, Dr. Adam Fimbo, confirmed that the Authority has fully mobilized its team to offer 24-hour services at the new customs office. This ensures that importers and traders of medicines and medical devices experience zero downtime when moving goods through the inland hub.

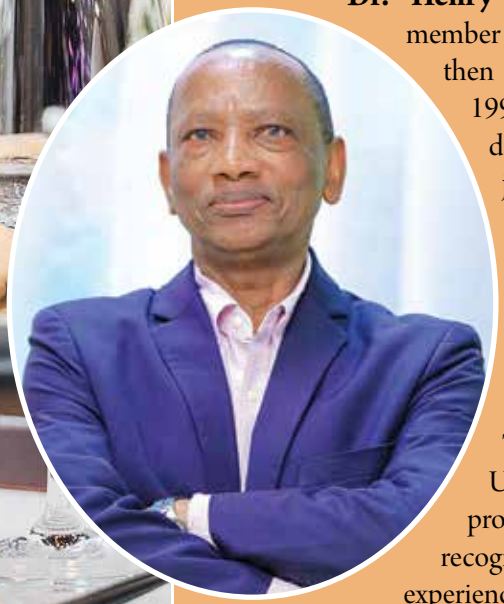
The Kwala Dry Port located at Kibaha district - Coastal Region, serves as an International Logistics Centre approximately 90–105 km from Dar es Salaam, designed to ease cargo congestion at the main port and across the city. The facility currently handles around 820 containers daily, with an annual capacity of 300,000 containers. Built on more than 1,000 hectares, the dry port is connected to the Dar es Salaam–Morogoro highway via concrete road and linked by rail to the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) network.

Phase one of the port spans five hectares, while phase two is under development to further expand handling capacity. Once fully operational, the Kwala Dry Port is expected to absorb up to 30% of the cargo currently processed at Dar es Salaam Port, enabling faster clearance and transportation of both local and transit goods. The facility is a key component of Tanzania's broader plan to become a leading logistics and trade hub for East and Central Africa.

TMDA Honors Retiring Staff for Distinguished and Dedicated Service

The Authority continues to recognize and celebrate the invaluable contribution of its long-serving staff by formally bidding farewell to retirees who have completed many years of dedicated service within the Authority. Their commitment, professionalism, and integrity have played a significant role in shaping TMDA's growth and strengthening its mandate to safeguard public health.

Among the retirees:



Dr. Henry Irunde, a long-serving staff member who began his career at the then Pharmacy Board back in May 1995. With nearly three decades of dedicated service, his professional journey has been marked by versatility and technical excellence. Over the years, he served across multiple functional areas including public education, laboratory services, and the Clinical Trials and Pharmacovigilance Unit, where he made notable professional contributions. In recognition of his expertise and experience, Dr. Irunde was appointed to offer consultative services at the East African Community Secretariat in Arusha, reflecting the trust and confidence placed on his capabilities at both national and regional levels.

Ms. Mary Masanja, who joined the then Pharmacy Board in June 1997 and being among the Authority's longest-serving staff member. She retired in 2025 after a distinguished career spanning from the era of the Pharmacy Board through the establishment of TMDA. Her long-standing service left an indelible mark to the institution, particularly in strengthening foundational systems, fostering a culture of accountability and institutional memory that continues to guide current generations of staff.

Mr. William Nkondokaya, who joined TFDA in April 2006, served within the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit until his retirement in 2026. He is remembered for his instrumental role in establishing the Authority's Monitoring and Evaluation tool, which significantly enhanced TMDA's capacity to track performance, assess implementation of activities, and improve transparency and efficiency in service delivery.

Mr. Fredinand Rugambwa, who joined TFDA in March 2007 and served as an Accounts Officer, demonstrated exemplary competence, integrity, and professionalism in financial management. Throughout his tenure until his retirement in 2025, he made a substantial contribution to the prudent stewardship of TMDA's resources, ensuring adherence to principles of financial discipline and accountability.

Collectively, these retirees altogether leave behind a strong legacy of professional excellence, ethical conduct, and systems developed over many years of service. Their contributions will continue to strengthen TMDA's performance and inspire future staff members.

TMDA extends its sincere appreciation to the retirees for their unwavering dedication and wishes them good health during their retirement period, while remaining deeply grateful for their role in safeguarding public health through the regulation of medicines, medical devices, and other health products in Tanzania.

Modern Sports Centres to be Built to Promote Staff Wellness

TMDA plans to build modern sports centres at its Kisongo – Arusha and Njedengwa – Dodoma plots as part of its commitment to promote staff wellness, teamwork, and a healthy working environment.

Speaking to members of the TMDA Workers Council slated on 6th of February, 2026 in Morogoro, the Director General, Dr. Adam Fimbo signified the importance of sports in the workplace. "Engaging in regular physical activity offers substantial benefits, including improved health, reduced stress, increased productivity, and stronger team cohesion. It helps staff focus better, reduce absenteeism, boost morale, and fosters a positive, collaborative working culture," he said.

The initiative is aligned with TMDA's broader strategic objectives, particularly its focus on reducing communicable diseases among staff while consequently improving health services. By integrating sports and recreational activities into workplace wellness programmes, TMDA will strengthen preventive health measures, encourage healthy lifestyles, and provide opportunities for early detection and management of common health risks.

The proposed sports arenas will accommodate a range of activities, including football, netball, volleyball, and other recreational games. The same will be accessible for physical

fitness, talent development, and social cohesion. TMDA management emphasized that this initiative is part of the Authority's strategy to invest in employee well-being as a driver of organizational performance and professional excellence.

Additionally, the facilities are expected to serve as avenues for inter-institutional sports competitions and community engagement, further strengthening relationships between TMDA, its staff, and surrounding communities. Feasibility studies for this project are currently underway, with implementation planned in phases.

By doing so, TMDA reaffirms its commitment to supporting initiatives that enhance both professional excellence and social well-being within the institution.

Head Office
Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA),
Plot No. 56/1, Block E, Kisasa B Centre, Hombolo Road,
P. O. Box 1253, Dodoma, Tanzania.
Tel: +255 (26) 2961989/2061990
Email: info@tmda.go.tz
Website: www.tmda.go.tz

Eastern Zone Office
Mandela Road, Mabibo - External,
P.O. Box 31356, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.
Tel: +255 737 226 328/788 470312
Email: info.easternzone@tmda.go.tz

TMDA Western Lake Zone Office
Meremeta Street, Bomani,
P.O. Box 240, Geita, Tanzania.
Email: geita@tmda.go.tz

Central Zone Office
Uhindini Street, Fahmida Complex,
P.O. Box 1253, Dodoma, Tanzania.
Tel:+255 26 2320156
Email: info.dodoma@tmda.go.tz

Southern Zone Office
NBC Building,
P. O. Box 48, Serengeti Road,
Ruvuma, Songea.
Tel: +255 766729416
Email: info.ruvuma@tmda.go.tz

Northern Zone Office
Ngorongoro Tourism Centre Building,
Fourth Floor,
P.O. Box 16609, Arusha, Tanzania.
Tel: +255 27 2970617, +255 737782442,
Email: info.arusha@tmda.go.tz

Eastern Lake Zone Office
Nyasaka Road, Buzuruga, Nyakato
P.O. Box 543, Ilemela, Mwanza, Tanzania.
Tel: +255 28 2981224/5
Fax: +255 28 298 1205
Email: info.mwanza@tmda.go.tz

Southern Highlands Zone Office
NHIF Tower, 3rd Floor,
P. O Box 6171, Mbeya, Tanzania.
Tel: +255 25 250 4425
Email: info.mbeya@tmda.go.tz

Western Zone Office
NSSF Building, Jamhuri Street,
P.O. Box 520, Tabora, Tanzania.
Tel: +255 26 00082
Email: info.tabora@tmda.go.tz

HOTLINE: 0800110084

@tmda_tanzania