

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **AFRICA CDC DONATES EQUIPMENT TO SAHPRA TO SUPPORT REGULATORY FUNCTIONS IN VACCINE MANUFACTURING**



**Pretoria, South Africa, 10 August 2023** – The Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has today officially handed over equipment worth USD 750,000 to South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) to support its regulatory functions relating specifically to vaccine manufacturing.

In April 2021, the African Union Heads of States established the Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM), hosted by the Africa CDC to steer a bold goal that will enable the African vaccine manufacturing industry to develop, produce, and sustainably increase supply from less than one percent (1%), currently. Under the PAVM, key enablers have been identified that need to be strengthened to achieve this bold goal. Amongst others is the regulatory strengthening of the National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) that must ensure the vaccines produced are safe and of good quality standards.

The Africa CDC worked with the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) to set priorities such as regulatory process harmonization, engaging with and strengthening NRAs directly, support and strengthen the Regional Centres of Regulatory Excellence (RCORE) platform to facilitate vaccine regulatory oversight, as manufacturing of health products expands in Africa.

The ceremony was attended by H.E. Dr. Jean Kaseya, Director General, Africa CDC and Dr Boitumelo Semete-Makokotlela, Chief Executive Officer, SAHPRA.

“This donation is a proverbial breath of fresh air for SAHPRA and, more importantly, for the African continent. This stellar initiative will provide much needed impetus for SAHPRA to take bold steps



to capacitate the authority and the continent in paving the way for renewed vigour and innovation on the continent,” indicates Dr Semete-Makokotlela.

“Africa CDC’s mission of safeguarding Africa’s health from disease threats such as pandemics will require viable and sustainable manufacturing of health products and technologies on the continent. To achieve this noble mission, National Regulatory Authorities are our key partners”, stressed Dr Kaseya.

“Today’s ceremony marks an important step in our commitment to support African manufacturing to ensure safe and effective vaccines are produced on the continent,” he further added.

Under the PAVM, SAHPRA is the first recipient of this support with a view to strengthening manufacturing in Africa. In addition, the Africa CDC is working with four other NRAs to strengthen their capacities and capabilities to achieve the ambitious PAVM Goal: “*Manufacturing 60% of vaccine needs on the continent by 2040*”.

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## **About partners**

### **Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)**

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) is a continental autonomous Public Health agency of the African Union which supports Member States in their efforts to strengthen health systems and improve surveillance, emergency response, prevention and control of diseases.

For more information, visit <https://africacdc.org/>

### **South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA)**

SAHPRA is tasked with regulating (monitoring, evaluating, investigating, inspecting and registering) all health products. This includes clinical trials, complementary medicines, medical devices and in-vitro diagnostics (IVDs). Furthermore, SAHPRA has the added responsibility of overseeing radiation control in South Africa. SAHPRA’s mandate is outlined in the Medicines and Related Substances Act (Act No 101 of 1965 as amended) as well as the Hazardous Substances Act (Act No 15 of 1973).

SAHPRA has three pillars to ensure that medicines, medical devices and IVDs meet the requisite standards to protect the health and well-being of all who reside in South Africa:

- Safety
- Efficacy
- Quality

It is these three pillars that define the ethos of SAHPRA.



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