



MEDIA RELEASE

SAHPRA and Law Enforcement seize illegal products

For immediate release

The South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) seized prohibited substances

Pretoria 13 December 2019 The South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) worked together with the SANDF, SAPS, Hawks, Metro Police, Department of Home Affairs, Department of Transport and Adams & Adams to seize a shipment containing prohibited skin lightening creams, unregistered medicines and registered schedule 4 medicines worth approximately R1.5m in Cape Town on 12 December 2019.

Two cases have been opened and two suspects arrested and charged with contravening the Medicines and Related Substances Act, Act 101 of 1965 as well as the Foodstuffs, Cosmetic and Disinfectants Act, Act 54 of 1972.

The suspects were in custody and will appear in the Belville Magistrate's Court on 13 December 2019.

"SAHPRA is committed to protecting the health and well-being of all who live in South Africa. These acts are indicative of unscrupulous conduct by some individuals and SAHPRA will work with law enforcement agencies to curb such practices," indicates Ms Portia Nkambule, Acting CEO of SAHPRA

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About SAHPRA

SAHPRA is tasked with regulating (monitoring, evaluating, investigating, inspecting and registering) all health products and clinical trials in South Africa. Health products include complementary medicines, medical devices and *in vitro* diagnostics (IVDs). SAHPRA also has the responsibility of overseeing radiation control in South Africa. SAHPRA's mandate is outlined in the Medicines and Related Substances Act (Act 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 South Africans:

- Safety
- Efficacy
- Quality

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