MEDIA RELEASE

Mr Khamusi Mutoti appointed Chairperson of African Blood Regulator' Forum (ABRF)

For immediate release

Pretoria, 07 October 2019 - Mr Khamusi Mutoti, Biological Medicine Manager at SAHPRA, was elected the Chairperson of the African Blood Regulator's Forum (ABRF) during the African Medicines Regulation Conference (AMRC) held at Elephant Hill Hotel, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe on 2 – 4 October 2019.

Mr Mutoti who is also an Expert Member of the World Health Organization (WHO) Similar Biotherpaeutic Products (SBT) Pre-Qualification Team, and also serves as a member of the Blood Transfusion Services (BTS) Specialist Technical Committee Member (STC).

His key role is to manage and oversee the review of quality, safety and efficacy of all biological medicines for the purpose of registration in South Africa. His role includes advisory and coordination of medicines (including vaccines, biologicals and biosimilar), developmental discussion with the experts and manufacturers intending to submit applications for registration in South Africa. Furthermore, his role also includes studies for the use of unregistered medicines as well as other research use for registered medicines, to ensure adherence to regulatory compliance.

The ABRF works closely with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to increase access to quality assured, safe and effective blood products through harmonising of regulations, strengthening of national regulatory systems and enhancement of international cooperation in this area. The ABRF will report to the AMRH SC for decision-making and coordination with other relevant technical working groups.

The purpose of the ABRF is to facilitate access to quality, safe, and affordable blood products for all the people of Africa through continental enhancement of the work of the RECs to advance technical and regulatory harmonisation and cooperation among the member states.

"SAHPRA is proud of Mr Mutoti's achievement. SAHPRA supports all staff members in their quest for growth and development," indicates Ms Portia Nkambule, Chief Regulatory Officer (CRO) and Acting CEO at 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 the 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

The SAHPRA executive, senior management, its staff and its Board have jointly committed themselves to rapidly transforming SAHPRA into a world class regulatory authority.