



MEDIA RELEASE

SAHPRA Responds to claims that hawkers are selling illicit medication in Cape Town

Embargo: Immediate release

Pretoria, 8 April 2022: The South Africa Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) remains committed in protecting the public from the supply of counterfeit and substandard medicines. Following the media report by eNCA claiming that some hawkers in Cape Town were illegally selling medicines, SAHPRA worked with law enforcement agencies to investigate this matter.

On 5 April 2022, SAHPRA together with the South African Police Service (SAPS), conducted an investigation and indeed discovered prescription medicines sold on the street. Those medicines should only be sold at pharmacies or authorised health facilities by appropriate health professionals. Thus, all these products were seized. Medicines sold in unauthorised facilities and by unauthorised individuals pose serious health risks as those products may be counterfeit, stolen, contaminated, or otherwise harmful and should not be purchased. Consumers must avoid exposure to such products as they can be dangerous and life-threatening.

Two suspects, a male and female, were arrested and a criminal case was opened with charges of contravening the Medicines and Related Substances Act. The investigation is ongoing to combat the supply of counterfeit and illicit medicines to the South African public. We urge the public to report any such illegal practices to Ms Mokgadi Fafudi on Mokgadi.fafudi@sahpra.org.za

“SAHPRA must ensure that all health products adhere to strict protocols when approved by SAHPRA. All illicit activity will be taken seriously and SAHPRA will work with law enforcement agencies to curb such unethical and illicit activity.” indicates SAHPRA CEO, Dr Boitumelo Semete-Makokotlela.

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About 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.

Notes to Editors:

SAHPRA will post this media release on our website. Navigate to the News section on the website.

Should you request an interview for television, please send your request to media@sahpra.org.za and copy yuveng@sahpra.org.za. Include your discussion points in your request.