MEDIA RELEASE

MCAZ signs MoU with South African Health Products Regulatory Authority

Embargo: Immediate release

Harare, 12 January 2024 – The Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe (MCAZ) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA).

The MoU between MCAZ and SAHPRA will allow the regulators to develop a cooperative partnership towards ensuring access to safe, quality, and effective health products in the respective countries.

Areas of Cooperation

MCAZ and SAHPRA will cooperate in joint products reviews and inspections to enable efficient access to health products. This partnership will also focus on detection and curbing of substandard and falsified health products moving between the two countries, which has of late been a major challenge that the two regulators have identified.

“This landmark event marks a significant step towards strengthening the regulatory frameworks of both Zimbabwe and South Africa in the pharmaceutical sector. The MoU is designed to facilitate cooperation and collaboration between the two countries in the areas of medicines regulation, quality control, and pharmacovigilance”, shares MCAZ Director-General, Mr Richard Rukwata.

“The forging of partnerships such as this MoU with the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe, a fellow African National Regulatory Authority, is key to further enhancing and building capacity on the continent”, indicates SAHPRA CEO, Dr Boitumelo Semete-Makokotlela.

Issued by:

Mr. Richard Rukwata

Director – General

mcaz@mcaz.co.zw

For further enquiries /information contact:

MCAZ Media contact:
Mr. Davison Kaiyo
Cell: +263782788568/+263733862742

E-mail: dkaiyo@mcaz.co.zw , mcaz@mcaz.co.zw

SAHPRA Media contact:
Ms. Melanie Govindasamy
Cell: 081 7800 875

E-mail: melanie.govindasamy@sahpra.org.za

About MCAZ:

Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe (MCAZ) is a statutory body established by an act of Parliament, The Medicines and Allied Substances Control Act (MASCA) [Chapter 15.03]. MCAZ is a successor of the Drugs Control Council (DCC) and the Zimbabwe Regional Drug Control Laboratory (ZRDCL). DCC was established by an Act of Parliament in 1969: Drugs and Allied Substances Control Act [Chapter 15.03] following which ZRDCL became operational in 1989.

MCAZ is responsible for protecting public and animal health by ensuring that accessible medicines and allied substances and medical devices are safe, effective and of good quality through enforcement of adherence to standards by manufacturers and distributors.

The mandate of MCAZ is to protect public health ensuring that medicines and medical devices on the market are safe, effective, and of good quality.

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:

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