

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

**PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD**

**DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH PRODUCTS AND TECHNOLOGIES**

**PRESS STATEMENT**

**ON CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL HEALTH PRODUCT DISTRIBUTION OUTLETS IN NYANZA AND NAIROBI**

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board is the Drug Regulatory Authority established under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, Chapter 244 of the Laws of Kenya. The Board regulates the Practice of Pharmacy and the Manufacture and Trade in drugs and poisons. The Board aims to implement the appropriate regulatory measures to achieve the highest standards of safety, efficacy and quality for all Health Products and Technologies (HPTs), locally manufactured, imported, exported, distributed, sold, or used, to ensure the protection of the consumer as envisaged by the Cap 244 laws of Kenya.

PPB regulatory inspectors,drawn from the department of Inspections and Enforcement, in collaboration with National police service, Office of the director of Public prosecutions (ODPP), The Judiciary and the National Government Administrative Agencies is carrying out a targeted crackdown on illegal (HPTs) distribution outlets within Nyanza and Nairobi.The counties of focus for the operation are Kisumu, Siaya, Migori, Homabay, Kisii, Nyamira and Nairobi counties.

The targeted drug distribution outlets includes illegal chemists, herbal medicine stores and cosmetic shops stocking medicament containing preparations disguised as cosmetics.Of interest has been Isibenia border entry and other hotspots within Nyanza and Nairobi region.

A total of **seventy (70)** persons have been placed under arrest and registered for prosecution in various courts within Nyanza and Nairobi regions.Atleast 200 regulatory inspections have been done in the exercise and appropriate regulatory actions has been applied.

Some of the charges that those found operating illegal pharmacies were charged with include but not limited to;

* Possession of part i poisons while not being an authorized seller of poisons contrary to section 26(1)(b) as read with section 26(2) of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, Cap. 244 laws of kenya.
* Possession of part I poisons in an unregistered premises contrary to section 26(1)(b) as read with section 26(2) of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, Cap. 244 laws of kenya.
* Carrying on the business of a pharmacist in premises not registered by the Pharmacy and Poisons Board contrary to section 23(1) as read with section 23(6) of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, Cap. 244 laws of kenya.
* Carrying on the business of a pharmaceutical technologist in premises not registered by the Pharmacy and Poisons board contrary to section 23(1a) as read with section 23(6) of the Pharmacy and Poisons act, cap. 244 laws of kenya
* Operating the business of a pharmacist without the presence of a registered pharmacist in the premises where such business is being carried out contrary to section 20(1b) as read with section 20(2) of the pharmacy and poisons act, Cap. 244 laws of kenya
* Carrying on the business of a pharmacist while not registered as a pharmacist by the Pharmacy and Poisons Board contrary to section 19(1)(a) as read with section 19(2) of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, Cap. 244 laws of kenya.

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board wishes to register profound gratitude to Judiciary, the Kenya Police service, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) and the Police for their collaboration and partnership during this exercise.

PPB wishes to warn the rogue individuals who remove or deface the closure notices issued that they are under investigation and any such acts will lead to appropriate regulatory sanctions.

PPB wishes to notify both public and private healthcare facilities and those who handle pharmaceuticals that they should apply online for disposal of any pharmaceutical waste that they may have or get in touch with PPB headquarters and regional officers. (PPB website: www.pharmacyboardkenya.org)

For more information and updates on the PPB's initiatives, please visit the official website at [www.pharmacyboardkenya.org](http://www.pharmacyboardkenya.org) or follow their social media channels on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/PPBKenya](http://www.facebook.com/PPBKenya)) and Twitter ([www.twitter.com/PPBKenya](http://www.twitter.com/PPBKenya)).

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