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# PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD

NEWSLETTER

[web.pharmacyboardkenya.org](http://web.pharmacyboardkenya.org)



**Pharmacy and Poisons Board  
engages international delegates  
to boost clinical trials and drug  
manufacturing in Kenya**



# Pharmacy and Poisons Board



## YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE CERTAIN, **JUST SUSPICIOUS!!!**

Report the following to PPB using the forms available online:

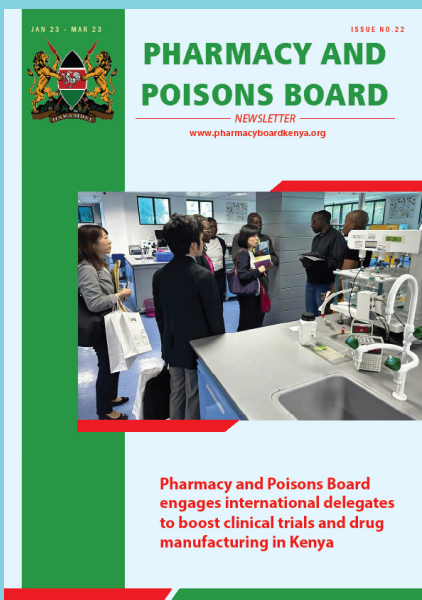
- Suspected poor quality medical products
- Suspected side effects following use of medicines, vaccines, medical devices, blood and blood products
- Medication errors

You Can report through the channels below:

PUBLIC/PATIENTS	
Website	<a href="http://pv.pharmacyboardkenya.org/padrs/add">pv.pharmacyboardkenya.org/padrs/add</a>
Phone	+254 795 743 049 or report to the nearest health facility

HEALTH WORKERS	
Website	<a href="http://pv.pharmacyboardkenya.org/">pv.pharmacyboardkenya.org/</a>
Email	<a href="mailto:pv@pharmacyboardkenya.org">pv@pharmacyboardkenya.org</a>
Phone	+254 795 743 049





# Editor's Note

## PPB's Latest Initiatives and Accomplishments

Welcome to the latest edition of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) publication. In this issue, we are delighted to share with you valuable insights and updates on our ongoing initiatives and accomplishments. One of the highlights of this edition is the engagement of international delegates to boost clinical trials and drug manufacturing in Kenya. This collaboration opens up new avenues for innovation and brings us closer to our goal of advancing healthcare in the country.

Furthermore, we are proud to announce the development of guidelines for Pharmaceutical Sales Representatives in Kenya. These guidelines aim to ensure ethical and professional conduct within the industry, promoting responsible marketing practices and safeguarding the well-being of patients.

In our continuous efforts to support the growth of the pharmaceutical sector, we are also excited to discuss the establishment of a vaccine manufacturing facility. This initiative aims to enhance local production capabilities, reduce dependence on imports, and ensure a sustainable supply of vaccines for the Kenyan population.

Lastly, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all our readers for their unwavering support and interest in the PPB's endeavors. Your engagement and feedback inspire us to strive for excellence in our regulatory responsibilities and contribute to the health and well-being of the nation.

Thank you for your valuable readership, and we hope you find this issue informative and inspiring.

Together, let us work towards a healthier future.

*Judy*

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### About The Newsletter

The PPB Newsletter is a publication of the Public Relations Department. It is designed to act as a tool of communication, documenting and disseminating important news and information to staff and stakeholders of the Board

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### ONGOING EVENTS

- Updating the Kenya Corrective and Preventive Action (CAPA) following the WHO Global Benchmarking Tool assessment of regulatory systems

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Pharmacy and Poisons Board



@ppbkenya

# CONTENTS

- 5 Pharmacy and Poisons Board engages delegates to discuss areas of collaboration.**
- 5 Pharmacy and Poisons Board engages international delegates to boost clinical trials and drug manufacturing in Kenya.**
- 6 Biovax Institute officials visit PPB in Kenya to discuss vaccine manufacturing facility.**
- 6 Global Fund and Pharmacy and Poisons Board collaborate to enhance healthcare in Kenya.**
- 7 IFC explores potential market entry into Kenya's pharmaceutical industry.**
- 8 Pharmacy and Poisons Board boosts healthcare in Vihiga with drug donation.**
- 9 Chinese Company officials visit Pharmacy and Poisons Board to explore Kenyan Market opportunities.**
- 10 Pharmacy and Poisons Board warns against illegal pharmaceutical outlets endangering public health.**
- 10 Pharmacy and Poisons Board arrests 70 in crackdown on illegal pharmaceutical practices.**
- 11 Pharmacy and Poisons Board seizes illegal Health Products valued at 2 million in Mtwapa raid.**

**Ensuring quality, safe, efficacious and affordable health products and technologies in Kenya**



## Pharmacy and Poisons Board engages delegates to discuss areas of collaboration



*Delegates at a meeting in Pharmacy and Poisons Board*



*A tour of the PPB Quality Control Laboratory*

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board on February 6, 2023 welcomed a delegation from Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA), Deloitte Japan, and Africa Health Business (AHB) to discuss gaps and opportunities in clinical trials and drug manufacturing in Kenya. Collaboration was a key theme of the meeting as the organizations explored ways to support the Kenyan vaccine and pharmaceutical sector. Let's work together to advance healthcare in Kenya.

## Pharmacy and Poisons Board engages international delegates to boost clinical trials and drug manufacturing in Kenya

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board held a meeting on February 3, 2023, with a delegation from Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA), Deloitte Japan, and Africa Health Business

(AHB) to discuss collaboration opportunities in clinical trials and drug manufacturing in Kenya. The meeting aimed to identify gaps and opportunities in the Kenyan vaccine and pharmaceutical sector

and explore ways to support its advancement. The organizations emphasized the importance of working together to improve healthcare in Kenya.

# Biovax Institute officials visit PPB in Kenya to discuss vaccine manufacturing facility



*PPB CEO Dr. F. M. Siyoi engages the Biovax Institute team during the meeting*

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) CEO, Dr. Fred Siyoi, recently received Biovax Institute officials led by their CEO, Dr. Michael Lusiola, to discuss the logistics of setting up a vaccine manufacturing facility in Kenya.

The meeting, which took place on February 21, 2023, aimed to support the government’s plan to manufacture human vaccines and boost the country’s healthcare system.

During the visit, Dr. Siyoi expressed PPB’s commitment to providing technical and regulatory support to the Korea Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF), which is also involved in the project. The move is seen as a major milestone for Kenya’s healthcare system, which is working towards achieving WHO’s Maturity Level 3.

The meeting also emphasized the need for partnership in strengthening regulatory systems and capacity building, particularly in laboratory services for the realization of Lot Release and biologicals.

Present at the meeting were PPB Director of Health Products and Technologies, Dr. Ahmed Mohamed, and Director Corporate Services, Dr. Jacinta Wasike.

The visit marks a significant step towards the realization of the vaccine manufacturing facility in Kenya, which is expected to enhance the country’s healthcare capacity and provide better access to vaccines for the population.



*The Korea Economic Development Cooperation Fund team during the meeting*

# Global Fund and Pharmacy and Poisons Board collaborate to enhance healthcare in Kenya

The Global Fund team and Pharmacy and Poisons Board held a crucial meeting on February 6, 2023, to discuss the implementation of the Global Fund grant and opportunities for progress in the healthcare sector in Kenya.

The discussion covered updates on post-marketing surveillance activities, ensuring a secure supply chain of Health Products and Technologies (HPTs), and processes for the control of import/exports of HPTs.



*PPB CEO Dr. F. M. Siyoi chairs a meeting with the Global Fund team*



The meeting emphasized the importance of collaboration between the Pharmacy and Poisons Board and the Global Fund in ensuring the successful implementation of the grant and promoting healthcare excellence in the country.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board, Dr. F. M. Siyoi, expressed his eagerness to work with the Global Fund towards a healthier Kenya.

This partnership represents a significant step towards enhancing the healthcare capacity of Kenya

and promoting better health outcomes for the population. “The Pharmacy and Poisons Board will continue to engage in strategic collaborations and partnerships to ensure access to quality healthcare in the country,” said Dr. Siyoi.

## IFC explores potential market entry into Kenya’s pharmaceutical industry

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) - World Bank and Nippon Chemiphar Co. Ltd delegation visited the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) on February 6, 2023, to discuss potential market entry into Kenya.

Nippon Chemiphar, a pharmaceutical manufacturing company based in Tokyo, is interested in expanding its Research & Development, manufacturing, distribution, and retail operations in the country.

Discussions focused on the pharmaceutical registration process at PPB. With the support of IFC-World Bank, the Kenyan



*Delegates at a meeting in Pharmacy and Poisons Board*

government aims to attract foreign investment in the local

pharmaceutical manufacturing sector.

Dr. Kariuki Gachoki, Deputy Director Product Safety, and Dr. Karim Wanga, Head of Post Marketing Surveillance, represented the PPB in the meeting, while Nippon Chemiphar was represented by Sasanori Kutsuwada, Director & Senior Managing Corporate Officer. This visit marks a promising step towards enhancing Kenya’s pharmaceutical industry, as the government continues to promote collaborations and partnerships to attract foreign investment and enhance the healthcare capacity of the country.



# Pharmacy and Poisons Board boosts healthcare in Vihiga with drug donation



PPB's Head of Western region, Beatrice Obinge during the donation of pharmaceuticals

In a bid to improve access to quality and safe medicines in Vihiga County, the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) made a significant donation on March 28, 2023. The drug regulatory authority donated medicines to two dispensaries in the

county, a move that will have a positive impact on healthcare accessibility and quality in the region.

The Head of Western Region, Beatrice Obinge, handed over the drugs to Dr. Wilber Ottichilo, the Governor of Vihiga County,



Vihiga Governor, Wilber Ottichilo makes his remarks as he receives the donation



Assorted medicines donated to Vihiga County

on behalf of PPB Chief Executive Officer, Dr. F.M Siyoi.

The donation was well-received by the governor, who expressed gratitude towards the Board and recognized the positive impact it would have on the local community.

“This generous move by PPB is a commendable effort towards promoting access to essential medicines and enhancing the health and wellbeing of residents in Vihiga County,” the Governor noted.

## Pharmacy and Poisons Board Develops Guidelines for Pharmaceutical Sales Representatives in Kenya

Pharmaceutical representatives play a crucial role in promoting medicines and other medical products to healthcare professionals. The industry continues to grow in Kenya, and it is imperative to establish guidelines

that govern the activities of sales representatives

In March 2023, the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) took a step towards creating clear guidelines for pharmaceutical sales representatives by holding

a consultative forum with key stakeholders. The aim was to involve them in the process of developing guidelines that ensure sales representatives are qualified to perform their tasks and act ethically and professionally,



thereby enhancing consumer confidence in the pharmaceutical industry.

“The guidelines will define the roles and responsibilities of sales representatives and clarify the scope of their activities. They will also provide guidance on ethical and professional conduct in promoting medicines and medical products to healthcare professionals,” Dr. Wilfred Ochieng, the Director of Pharmacy Practice at PPB said.

Dr. Ochieng added that the guidelines will be critical in ensuring that pharmaceutical sales representatives are appropriately



*Stakeholders follow proceedings at a workshop to develop guidelines for sales representatives*

trained and qualified to conduct their tasks effectively and that they comply with the legal and ethical standards of the pharmaceutical industry. “This will enhance consumer confidence and ensure that the public receives accurate and reliable information about medicines and other medical products,” he noted.

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board is

Kenya’s National Drug Regulatory Authority, established under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act Cap 244 Laws of Kenya to oversee the practice of pharmacy and ensure the safety, quality, and efficacy of medical products and health technologies. The development of guidelines for sales representatives is an essential step towards achieving this mandate.

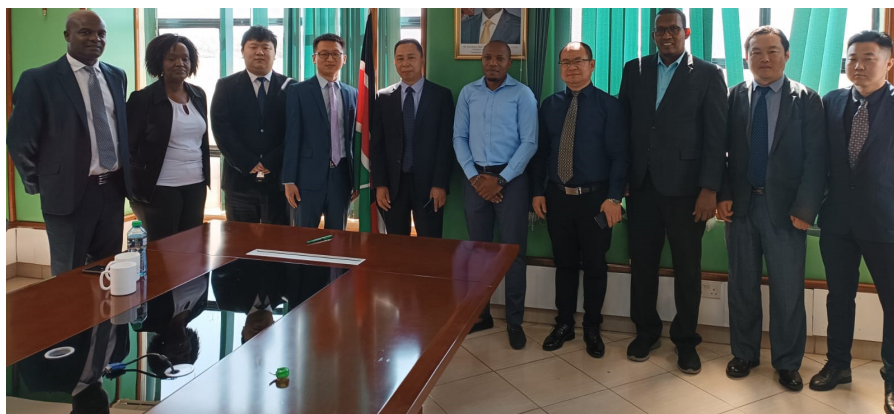
## Chinese Company officials visit Pharmacy and Poisons Board to explore Kenyan Market opportunities

Representatives from Chongqing Zhifei Biologicals, a Chinese company specializing in biological medical products, visited the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) on February 23, 2023 to explore opportunities in the Kenyan market.

During their visit, the team, led by Zhaoyang Wang and accompanied by representatives from Sinopharm East Africa Limited, sought



*Representative from Chongqing Zhifei Biologicals during the meeting*



*A group photo of the meeting participants*

to understand the regulatory requirements needed for their products to access the market.

Dr. Kariuki Gachoki, Deputy Director Product Safety, on behalf of the PPB Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Fred Siyoi, warmly received the team and assured them of the board’s readiness to provide support in

registering their products in Kenya. The meeting highlighted the board’s commitment to promoting the entry of safe and effective pharmaceutical products into the Kenyan market, while also fostering international collaborations to improve access to quality healthcare for all.

# Pharmacy and Poisons Board warns against illegal pharmaceutical outlets endangering public health

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) has issued a warning that illegal pharmaceutical outlets are posing a significant threat to public health and safety.

According to Julius Kaluai, the Head of Inspectorate and Enforcement at the PPB, the board is committed to ensuring that only licensed practitioners are involved in the practice of pharmacy and that all medical products and health technologies sold to the public meet required safety, quality, and efficacy standards.

From 20th – 24th February, 2023, the PPB conducted a joint investigative and regulatory



inspection in the Upper Eastern and Central regions of Kenya, aimed at investigating and prosecuting illegal pharmaceutical outlets.

The operation resulted in 30 arrests and prosecutions, and the seizure of 70 boxes of assorted health products and technologies. The PPB is also investigating licensed practitioners who leave their practice under the care of unqualified personnel for possible prosecution and license revocation.

To help the public identify illegal pharmaceutical premises, the Board advises verifying the registration details of pharmacy practitioners at community pharmacies, hospital pharmacies, and other drug dispensing facilities. Anyone suspecting



*A closed chemist in Upper Eastern region*

illegal pharmaceutical outlets or unqualified personnel can report them via [info@pharmacyboardkenya.org](mailto:info@pharmacyboardkenya.org).

The PPB remains committed to ensuring the highest standards of quality, safe, and efficacious medicines in Kenya. The public is encouraged to work with the Board to keep communities safe and healthy.

## Pharmacy and Poisons Board arrests 70 in crackdown on illegal pharmaceutical practices

Seventy (70) individuals have been arrested by the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) in its latest crackdown on illegal pharmaceutical practices, as the Board seeks to protect public health in Kenya.

The operation began on March 26, 2023, and targeted illegal pharmaceutical outlets in the Central and Nairobi regions, resulting in the closure of 94 premises.

During a press briefing in Nyeri, Dr. Tom Kauki, the head of the Central Region, stressed the

importance of collaboration between the public, media, and law enforcement agencies to ensure the continued closure of the targeted premises.

The PPB worked alongside the National Police Service to promote good distribution practices for Health Products and Technologies (HPTs) and to raise awareness of the Board's mandate in the Nairobi and Central regions.

Dr. Kauki urged licensed personnel to take full responsibility for their premises



*A closed illegal premise*

and prevent unlicensed individuals from managing pharmacies. The PPB has established operational offices in Kiambu and Murang'a counties





PPB's Head of Central Region, Dr. Tom Kauki displays a closure notice during a media briefing

to enhance its enforcement efforts under Cap 244.

Dr. Kauki also called on public and private health facilities that handle pharmaceutical waste they possess by applying online through web. pharmacyboardkenya.org.

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board, established under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act Cap 244 Laws of Kenya, is Kenya's National Drug Regulatory Authority. Its mandate is to oversee the practice of pharmacy and ensure the safety, quality, and efficacy of medical products and health technologies.

## Pharmacy and Poisons Board seizes illegal Health Products valued at 2 million in Mtwapa raid

In March 2023, the Pharmacy and Poison Board (PPB) conducted a raid on a pharmacy in Mtwapa, Kilifi, resulting in the recovery of over 10 boxes of assorted drugs and equipment worth an estimated 2 million shillings.

The PPB's Head of Crime Investigations and Enforcement Unit, Mr. Dennis Otieno, stated that the raid was prompted by intel about illegal operations at the chemist. "Upon inspection, the store was found to have a storage facility at the back where the recovered goods, including government drugs, were found," he said. The PPB is currently conducting investigations to identify and apprehend the culprit.



Seized pharmaceuticals during a raid at a pharmacy in Mtwapa



Pharmacy and  
Poisons Board

## DANGERS OF SELF-MEDICATION

Self-medication has potential risks such as;

- 1 Hiding of severe disease hence delay in seeking medical advice
- 2 Wrong identification of diseases leading to wrong choice of medicines
- 3 Can lead to side effects (mild, moderate to severe)
- 4 Exposure to harmful medicines interactions
- 5 Other risks include wrong dosages, wrong route of administration, risk of medicines abuse and addiction

For more information visit: [www.pharmacyboardkenya.org](http://www.pharmacyboardkenya.org)



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PPB Newsletter

Guaranteeing Quality and Safety of Medicines