



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD**

**PRESS STATEMENT: 16th FEBRUARY 2024**

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (hereinafter 'the Board') is National Drug Regulatory Authority in the Ministry of Health, established under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act Cap 244 Laws of Kenya to regulate the practice of pharmacy and ensure safety, quality and efficacy of Medical Products and Health Technologies.

Following a strategic operation in Nairobi, South Rift and Western region, the Board successfully apprehended 129 individuals involved in illegal activities related to pharmaceuticals. The operation that started on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024, has resulted in the seizure of atleast 200 cartons of illicit medicines and the closure of 99 illegal pharmaceutical premises.

The collaborative effort has demonstrated the commitment of the board to curbing unlawful practices in the pharmaceutical sector, ensuring public safety, and upholding regulatory standards.

This successful mission reflects the dedication of the Board in maintaining the integrity of the pharmaceutical industry and protecting the well-being of the citizens.

The targeted operation focused on closure of several illegal pharmaceutical premises and chemists involved in the distribution of unregistered medicines.

These unauthorized establishments pose a significant risk to public health, as the safety and efficacy of the products cannot be guaranteed.

The Board strongly advise the public to exercise caution and only purchase pharmaceuticals from licensed and reputable sources. Further, the Board cautions the public to be wary of chemists that are run without names (this is a key pointer to illegality) as well as unregistered medicines, as they may not meet regulatory standards and could have adverse effects on your health.

To ensure their safety and the well-being, the public is advised to verify the legitimacy of pharmaceutical establishments and report any suspicious activities to the Board.

The public and private healthcare facilities handling pharmaceuticals are notified to apply online for disposal of any pharmaceutical waste that they may have or get in touch with PPB regional officers. (website: [www.pharmacyboardkenya.org](http://www.pharmacyboardkenya.org)).

The Pharmaceutical practitioners are guided to regularly review and update transportation processes for pharmaceuticals based on feedback, performance metrics, and industry advancements and embrace new technologies and best practices to enhance the efficiency and reliability of pharmaceutical transportation.

<https://web.pharmacyboardkenya.org/download/guidelines-for-transportation-of-pharmaceuticals-in-kenya/>

**Kaluai Julius**

**Head, Enforcement and Surveillance**

**FOR: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**