



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD

PRESS STATEMENT: 19TH MAY 2024

Board Uncovers Illegal Pharmaceutical Practices and Pilferage of Government Stores

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (hereinafter 'the Board') is the National Drug Regulatory Authority within the Ministry of Health, established under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act Cap 244 Laws of Kenya, to regulate the practice of pharmacy and ensure the safety, quality, and efficacy of medical products and health technologies.

Through diligent investigation and decisive action, the Board has sustained its role in dismantling illegal pharmaceutical practices across the country. Consequently, the Board has uncovered a syndicate involved in the pilferage of government stores within Kajiado County. This coordinated effort was carried out in partnership with the National Police Service. These illegal entities were found to be unlicensed, dispensing medications without the necessary licenses and approvals from the Board.

This extensive investigation was launched following alarming reports of medicine shortages in public healthcare facilities within the region. The inquiry has so far revealed a network of individuals involved in the theft and illegal distribution of these essential medicines.

The stolen pharmaceuticals were found in unlicensed chemists, posing serious health risks to the public due to their unregulated handling and distribution. These medicines, intended for public use, had been illegally diverted for commercial gain. Several individuals have been arrested in connection with these illegal activities. The commodities have been confiscated for use as exhibits during prosecution. Those found guilty will face stringent penalties as per the penal code and other applicable laws.

In parallel, the Board, through sustained routine enforcement and surveillance strategies, has seized 150 cartons of assorted health products and technologies. Thirty-five (35) offenders have been arrested and 50 premises have been shut down for flouting various regulations.

This ongoing operation reflects the unwavering commitment of the Board to protect the public from the dangers posed by illegal pharmaceutical activities. To ensure compliance and adherence, the Board has released a list of registered pharmaceutical outlets which can be accessed through the following link: Pharmacy and Poisons Board - Registered Outlets.

The Board strongly advises the public to exercise caution and only purchase pharmaceuticals from licensed and reputable sources. The public should be wary of chemists operating without names, as this is a key indicator of illegality, as well as unregistered medicines, which may not meet regulatory standards and could adversely affect health. To ensure safety and well-being, the public is advised to verify the legitimacy of pharmaceutical establishments and report any suspicious activities to the Board.

Registered public and private healthcare facilities handling pharmaceuticals are reminded to apply online for the disposal of any pharmaceutical waste or contact PPB regional officers via Pharmacy and Poisons Board.

Finally, all registered pharmaceutical practitioners are advised to continually update themselves with regulatory provisions governing the prescription and dispensing of controlled medicines and to make records available for review upon request by an authorised officer. They are also required to comply with the labelling requirements as documented under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act [CAP 244].

The Board remains committed to safeguarding public health and ensuring that all citizens have access to safe, effective, and affordable medicines. We appreciate the cooperation of the public and encourage anyone with information regarding illegal pharmaceutical activities to report them through our confidential hotline or email.

JULIUS KALUAI
FOR: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE