



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD

**PRESS STATEMENT: PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD TAKES ACTION
AGAINST ILLEGAL PHARMACEUTICAL ACTIVITIES IN RIFT VALLEY
REGION
JUNE 10, 2024**

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

In response to unlawful pharmaceutical activities in the Rift Valley region, the Board has undertaken a series of coordinated operations resulting in significant outcomes. Over 30 arrests have been made, with 120 cartons of assorted pharmaceuticals seized, and the closure of more than 100 rogue chemists. The individuals who have been arrested are facing charges related to illegal distribution, sale and possession of pharmaceuticals.

These decisive actions follow a comprehensive investigation into unlawful practices within the pharmaceutical industry, including the illegal sale of prescription medications, fraudulent activities involving government drugs, and unlicensed pharmaceutical distribution channels. The Board remains steadfast in its commitment to safeguarding public health and ensuring the integrity of the pharmaceutical supply chain.

The proliferation of illicit pharmaceuticals poses a significant threat to public health and safety. The Board is dedicated to eliminating these activities and holding accountable those who endanger consumer well-being.

The enforcement operation took place between June 3rd to June 7th, 2024, in collaboration with the National Police Service, targeting various locations known for their involvement in illegal pharmaceutical activities. Through meticulous surveillance and intelligence gathering, the Board has identified and dismantled numerous criminal pharmaceutical enterprises. The Board acknowledges the significant support and collaboration from the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Furthermore, the closure of over 100 rogue pharmacies will help disrupt the illicit supply chain and prevent further harm to the public. The Board is committed to continue monitoring and enforcing compliance within the pharmaceutical industry by ensuring that, only safe and legitimate medications are available to the public. Consumers are urged to exercise caution when purchasing pharmaceuticals and to obtain medications only from licensed and reputable sources.



Dr. F. M. Siyoi
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

10th June, 2024