



JOINT STATEMENT ON CRACKDOWN OF ILLEGAL ONLINE SALE OF MEDICINES PURPORTED TO CURE HIV/AIDS

(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

Lusaka, 11th April, 2025. The Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA), in collaboration with the Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA), and the Zambia Police Service (ZP) has unearthed a scam of illegal online sale of medicines purported to cure HIV/ AIDS and other related diseases by two Ugandan nationals.

This followed a complaint filed in July 2024, regarding a Facebook page named “Dr. Thomas” selling unauthorised medicines claiming to cure serious health conditions including HIV/AIDS, hypertension and heart-related issues.

Using advanced intelligence techniques, the two suspects were identified as Mr. Edward Abudulah and Mr. Ham Trevor, who are both Ugandan nationals and residents of Lusaka’s Chalala area.

During the operation, the following items were recovered:

- 8 mobile phones
- 69 pre-registered SIM cards
- 6 international SIM cards
- Assorted medicinal products
- 85 medicine bottles
- Multiple plastic sachets containing unidentified powdered substances
- Various medication branding and packaging materials.

All items have been seized in line with Section 121(1) of the Criminal Procedure Code, Cap 88 of the Laws of Zambia.

Preliminary investigations further revealed that the suspects were also fraudulently collecting money from members of the public under the false pretense of being traditional doctors from Tanzania.

The suspects are currently detained at Lusaka Central Police Station, pending official charges and arrest for advertising medicines without marketing authorisation contrary to Section 39 of the Medicines and Allied Substances Act No. 3 of 2013.

This crackdown highlights the commitment of ZAMRA, ZICTA and the Zambia Police Service to protecting public health and safety.

We urge the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious online activities related to medicine sales to the relevant authorities. Together, we can ensure the safe and regulated distribution of medicines in Zambia.

JOINTLY ISSUED BY:

ZAMRA SENIOR PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

Mr. Ludovic Mwape

.....
ZAMBIA POLICE SERVICE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

Mr. Rae Hamoonga

.....
ZICTA MANAGER CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Hanford Chaaba

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