MCAZ Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe

MEDIA RELEASE

ZAMRA AND MCAZ SIGN MOU

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Harare/Lusaka, 17 June 2025 – The Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) and the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe (MCAZ) are pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at enhancing cooperation in the regulation of medical products between the two countries.

This strategic partnership aims to enhance regulatory functions through collaboration in areas such as the detection of substandard and falsified medicines, track-and-trace systems, nanotechnology and biotechnology for medicines, vaccine and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) production, and other emerging scientific and regulatory domains. This agreement underscores a shared commitment to advancing public health, fostering innovation, and ensuring access to safe, quality, and efficacious medical products for citizens of both nations.

The MoU establishes a robust framework for technical cooperation, including information sharing, capacity building, joint participation in international fora, mutual recognition of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) inspections, and fostering investment by pharmaceutical industries across both countries.

Speaking on the significance of the MoU, MCAZ Director-General, Mr Richard T Rukwata, said: “This collaboration marks a significant milestone in regional regulatory convergence. By working together, ZAMRA and MCAZ will leverage each other’s expertise and resources to strengthen the fight against substandard and falsified medical products, and promote public health and safety in both nations.”

ZAMRA Director-General, Mr. Makomani Siyanga, added: “This partnership underscores our shared commitment to ensuring that only safe, effective, and quality-assured medical products are accessible in our respective markets. It represents a proactive step toward harmonization, efficiency, and innovation in our regulatory systems.”

The agreement is effective for five years and may be renewed upon mutual consent. Both parties remain committed to promoting regulatory excellence, improving access to quality-assured medicines, and contributing to the broader goal of achieving Universal Health Coverage in the region.

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About ZAMRA

The Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) is a Government Agency established by the Medicines and Allied Substances Act (No. 3) of 2013. The Authority is mandated to regulate and control medicines and allied substances in order to ensure their consistent conformity to acceptable standards of quality, safety, and efficacy throughout their manufacture, importation, exportation, distribution, supply, sale, and use.

About MCAZ:

Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe (MCAZ) is a statutory body established by an act of Parliament, The Medicines and Allied Substances Control Act (MASCA) [Chapter 15.03]. MCAZ is a successor of the Drugs Control Council (DCC) and the Zimbabwe Regional Drug Control Laboratory (ZRDCL). DCC was established by an Act of Parliament in 1969: Drugs and Allied Substances Control Act [Chapter 15.03], following which ZRDCL became operational in 1989.

MCAZ is responsible for protecting public and animal health by ensuring that accessible medicines and allied substances and medical devices are safe, effective and of good quality through enforcement of adherence to standards by manufacturers and distributors.

The mandate of MCAZ is to protect public health ensuring that medicines and medical devices on the market are safe, effective, and of good quality.

Notes to Editors:

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