

All correspondence should be addressed to the Director General



In reply, please quote

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ZAMBIA MEDICINES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: 16th April 2026

To: Healthcare Professionals & The General Public

DISMISSAL OF FALSE AUDIO REGARDING "POISONOUS" MEDICATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – The Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) wishes to address a malicious audio recording currently circulating on social media. In the recording, an unidentified individual—falsely claiming to be a Ministry of Health official—alleges that a "poisonous" medication is being distributed in the Kasumbalesa area.

Clarification of Facts

Initial assessments suggest the medication depicted is **Praziquantel**, a standard and essential treatment for Schistosomiasis (Bilharzia). This parasitic disease affects millions globally and, if left untreated, can lead to stunted growth, anemia, and life-threatening complications. ZAMRA wishes to categorically state that the claims in the audio are **false and baseless**.

Guidance to the Public

- 1. Disregard the Alert:** The public is advised to ignore this recording. It is a fabricated alarm intended to cause unnecessary panic.
- 2. Professional Consultation:** Like all medicines, Praziquantel must be administered in the correct dosage as prescribed by qualified healthcare professionals.
- 3. Ethical Warning:** ZAMRA sternly warns all individuals, including community-based volunteers and healthcare providers, against disseminating unsubstantiated claims. Spreading false information that undermines public health is a serious breach of ethical standards.

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Report Adverse Reactions to:
Pharmacovigilance Unit, Lusaka
Tel: +260 211 432 356
E-mail: npvu@zamra.co.zm
Website: www.zamra.co.zm

Our Commitment

ZAMRA remains vigilant in its mandate under the Medicines and Allied Substances Act No. 3 of 2013. We continue to conduct rigorous post-market surveillance to ensure all medicines in Zambia meet the highest standards of quality, safety, and efficacy.

Further, ZAMRA is engaging relevant state institutions to ensure the culprit is arrested.

Reporting & Inquiries

Report incidents of Adverse Drug Reactions and Product Quality Problems to the National Pharmacovigilance Unit at Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority by phone: +260 211 432 356/+260 956 521 094 or email address at: npvu@zamra.co.zm or pharmacy@zamra.co.zm.

Should you need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact our Secretariat.



Makomani Siyanga (Mr.)
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Picture of the purported poisonous medicine

