

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA**

ZAMRA LAUNCHES TRAINING PROGRAMME TO SCREEN CHILDREN'S MEDICINES FOR TOXIC CONTAMINANTS

The Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) has officially launched a specialized training programme for inspectors to prepare for a nationwide Post-Marketing Surveillance (PMS) survey. The survey will screen paediatric oral liquid medicines for potential contamination with Ethylene Glycol (EG) and Diethylene Glycol (DEG).

Officially opening the workshop, ZAMRA Director General, Mr. Makomani Siyanga, emphasized that this proactive intervention comes at a critical juncture when global regulatory bodies are tightening public health safeguards. This regulatory action responds to multiple global alerts issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) since 2022. Contaminated syrups linked to EG and DEG have caused severe adverse events and fatalities in children across several countries.

Operating under the Medicines and Allied Substances Act No. 3 of 2013, ZAMRA is mandated to ensure that only safe, efficacious, and quality-assured products are on the Zambian market. This upcoming quality survey serves as a critical tool to detect harmful products and protect public health.

The survey will involve initial screening of the sampled paediatric oral liquid formulations using the GPHF – Minilab. Confirmation of non-compliant products will be conducted at a WHO-Prequalified Laboratory.

To ensure reliability and integrity of the survey findings, all sampling protocols will explicitly adhere to the globally recognized WHO Guidance on Conduct of Survey of Quality of Medicines (TRS 966, Annex 7).

The data collected from this exercise will provide valuable evidence to guide regulatory interventions, enforce compliance among manufacturers and distributors, and safeguard the health of Zambian children.

The training took place from 2 to 5 June, 2026 at Mulungushi International Conference Centre.



Figure 1 Director General Mr. M. Siyanga and Director Licensing, Surveillance and Enforcement Mr. M. Mwale



Figure 2 ZAMRA workshop participants from across the country.



Figure 3 ZAMRA workshop participants from across the country.