ZAMBIA MEDICINES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

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ENGAGEMENT OF COSMETICS STAKEHOLDERS ON THE COPPERBELT



In its continued stakeholder engagement, the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA), on the 8th and 9th April 2026, met cosmetics dealers and other industry players in Ndola and Kitwe.

The engagements formed part of the Authority's ongoing efforts to strengthen the regulation of cosmetics in Zambia while fostering greater collaboration with stakeholders in the sector.

A multidisciplinary team from ZAMRA's Allied Substances and Public Relations Units provided comprehensive presentations on the Authority's mandate, the role of the Allied Substances Unit, progress made since ZAMRA embarked on the regulation of cosmetics and legal obligations under the Medicines and Allied Substances Act.

The sessions also offered stakeholders an opportunity to raise concerns, share experiences, and provide feedback on their expectations regarding the regulation of cosmetic products.

Regarding the grace period, Registration Officer-Cosmetics, Cynthia Miyanda, assured the stakeholders that ZAMRA would guide on the way forward after the 9th of September, 2026. She reiterated that the regulation of cosmetics officially commenced on 9th September 2024, with a two-year grace period provided to enable manufacturers, importers, and distributors to register their cosmetic products.

She also reminded stakeholders that all importers and exporters of cosmetics were required to obtain the necessary permits before conducting business.

Stakeholders were further encouraged to familiarise themselves with the applicable regulatory requirements, including product registration guidelines, fees, and licensing procedures available on the ZAMRA website.

These engagements reaffirm ZAMRA's commitment to building a transparent and collaborative regulatory environment that safeguards public health.

Cosmetics include products used for cleansing, beautifying, enhancing appearance, maintaining personal hygiene, and promoting freshness.

ZAMRA REVIEWS GMP AND RELIANCE GUIDELINES

From 13th to 14th April 2026, the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) convened a stakeholder consultative meeting on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Good Reliance Practices at M'kango Golfview Hotel.

Speaking during the engagement, Director-General Mr. Makomani Siyanga emphasized the importance of reliance and recognition in modern regulatory systems.

In the area of Marketing Authorisation, reliance involves the consideration of assessments conducted by other regulatory authorities, allowing for faster approvals while maintaining rigorous safety and quality standards.

Similarly, in GMP inspections, the recognition of inspections carried out by trusted authorities helps streamline processes, reduce the regulatory burden on manufacturers, and strengthen oversight.

This engagement underscored ZAMRA's commitment to strengthening regulatory frameworks and aligning with international best practices to ensure the availability of quality, safe, and efficacious medicines and allied substances in Zambia.

"By leveraging assessments conducted by trusted regulatory authorities, ZAMRA can optimise resources, reduce duplication, and expedite access to essential medicines and allied substances," he said.



STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED ON THE 2026 MEDICINES AND ALLIED SUBSTANCES BILL



The Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health and with support from AUDA-NEPAD, in April convened a stakeholder update meeting to share milestones achieved on the development of the Medicines and Allied Substances Bill, 2026.

The meeting followed a series of consultative engagements held with stakeholders between October 2025 and March 2026, reflecting a continued commitment to inclusivity and transparency in strengthening Zambia's medicines and allied substances regulatory framework.

The engagement also provided a platform to present findings from the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) which was conducted by the Authority, with support from the Business Regulatory Review Agency, between 26th January and 6th February 2026.

The proposed Bill seeks, among others, to repeal and replace the current Act in order to align it with the African Union Model Law on medical products regulation.

This alignment will enhance the capacity of the National Regulatory Authority to effectively oversee medicines and allied substances, while strengthening measures against substandard and falsified products.

Speaking during the meeting, ZAMRA Director-General Mr. Makomani Siyanga emphasized the vital role stakeholders play in safeguarding public and animal health.

> **"The Bill is not just a piece of proposed legislation, but a safeguard for the nation's health, an enabler for industrial growth, and a testament to Zambia's commitment to global health standards,"** he said.

Mr. Siyanga further noted that once enacted, the Bill will strengthen the legislative framework and support Zambia's aspiration to attain World Health Organization Maturity Level 3 (ML3) status, a globally recognised benchmark of regulatory excellence.

He also expressed appreciation to AUDA-NEPAD, through Team Lead - Medical Products Regulation, Anthony Kapeta, for the continued technical and financial support towards this important process.

The highly interactive stakeholder meeting, which attracted over 50 participants, was held from 14th to 17th of April 2026 at the Radisson Blu Hotel.



EXPANDING PHARMACOVIGILANCE CAPACITY



The Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) successfully conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) in Pharmacovigilance (PV) from 20th to 24th April 2026 at Sandy's Creations in Chilanga, reaffirming its safety commitment to strengthening medicine monitoring systems across the country.

The five-day workshop brought together Pharmacovigilance officers from all ten provinces, representing both public and private health facilities.

The training formed part of ZAMRA's ongoing efforts to build a strong national network of skilled professionals capable of promoting and sustaining effective pharmacovigilance practices at all levels of the healthcare system.

Designed as a strategic capacity-building initiative, the Training of Trainers model equips participants to monitor medicine safety and cascade knowledge to colleagues nationwide."

This approach is expected to enhance the standardisation and consistency of pharmacovigilance activities nationwide.

Pharmacovigilance, also known as Medicine Safety Monitoring, plays a vital role in safeguarding public health by detecting, assessing, understanding and preventing adverse effects or any other medicine-related problems.

A robust pharmacovigilance system contributes to ensuring that medicines and allied substances available on the Zambian market remain safe, effective and of assured quality throughout their lifecycle.

The training was organised by ZAMRA's National Pharmacovigilance Unit (NPVU) and facilitated by Ms Jean Mukumbuta, Dr Sindwa Kanyimba and Mr Reagan Kabuka.

VETERINARY PROFESSIONALS CONVENE FOR 82ND VAZ CONFERENCE

> ZAMRA...reaffirmed the Authority's **commitment to ensuring the availability of quality, safe, and efficacious veterinary medicines** and allied substances.



From 22nd to 24th April 2026, the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) joined stakeholders at the 82nd Veterinary Association of Zambia (VAZ) Scientific Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM), held under the theme: "Veterinary Professionals: Guardians of Food and Health."

The conference brought together veterinary professionals from across the country to reflect on progress, address emerging challenges, and shape the future of the profession in Zambia.

In a speech delivered on his behalf by PS Dr. Max Choombe, Minister of Fisheries and Livestock, Hon. Eng. Peter Kapala commended veterinary professionals for their critical role in safeguarding both animal and human health.

In a speech delivered on his behalf by Permanent Secretary, Dr. Max Choombe, the Minister highlighted key measures being implemented, including strengthening diagnostic systems and early disease detection through enhanced technology and improving emergency response mechanisms and access to preventive medicines.

He also emphasized Government's commitment to modernising veterinary services through technology and innovation to meet regional and international standards.

Meanwhile, ZAMRA Director-General, Mr. Makomani Siyanga, represented by Assistant Director, Department of Veterinary Products and Allied Substances, Dr. Daniel Ndambasiya reaffirmed the Authority's commitment to ensuring the availability of quality, safe, and efficacious veterinary medicines and allied substances.

ZAMRA SHOWCASES VETERINARY REGULATION AT VAZ 2026



The Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) proudly exhibited at the 2026 Veterinary Association of Zambia (VAZ) Scientific Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Officers from the Public Relations, ICT, and Veterinary departments engaged with stakeholders, providing guidance and addressing challenges, particularly in navigating the Integrated Regulatory Management System (IRIMS).

The Authority was honoured to receive the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Dr. Max Choombe, who visited the stand and interacted with the team.

Public Relations Officer, Lister Mutukwa, highlighted the strides ZAMRA has made to date in ensuring the availability of quality, safe, and efficacious veterinary medicines and allied substances.

These efforts include the establishment of a dedicated veterinary directorate, the ongoing capacity building initiatives and public awareness activities.

The exhibition also enabled the team to collaborate and gather valuable feedback to enhance service delivery.

ZAMRA remains committed to safeguarding animal health and supporting Zambia's veterinary sector through strong regulation and stakeholder collaboration.

The exhibition provided valuable insights to enhance service delivery.

ZAMBIA–IRELAND PARTNERSHIP ADVANCES VETERINARY MEDICINE ACCESS



On the 5th of May 2026, the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority hosted a team from Ireland under the Zambia Ireland Sustainable Food Systems Strengthening Programme (ZISSP).

The engagement marked an important step towards formalising collaboration, with support from Sustainable Food Systems Ireland (SFSI), aimed at strengthening the regulation of prescription and dispensing of veterinary medicines in Class III Agrovet shops.

This initiative seeks to improve the availability of essential Veterinary Medical Products (VMPs) to rural and small-scale farmers, ultimately contributing to reduced disease prevalence and improved animal health, particularly in livestock.

The key focus of the programme is the development of a targeted training curriculum for personnel operating Class III Agrovet shops, which aligns with Government's broader vision of positioning Zambia as a net beef exporter, through responsible use of veterinary medicines.

The project will bring together stakeholders from human health, animal health, the Veterinary Council of Zambia (VCZ), and academia, fostering a collaborative approach to safeguarding public and animal health while driving economic development.

ZAMRA Director-General, Mr. Makomani Siyanga expressed appreciation to the visiting delegation, led by Mr. David Butler and Ms. Paula Barry-Walsh, and reaffirmed the Authority's commitment to advancing sustainable livestock production in Zambia.

In addition, Mr. Butler emphasised SFSI's readiness to support Zambia in achieving sustainable food systems by leveraging Ireland's experience and best practices.

STAKEHOLDERS SHAPE THE 2027 ANNUAL SAMPLING PLAN

The Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) successfully held a Quality Assurance stakeholders' engagement On 15th June 2026 at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre in Lusaka.

The meeting, organized to formulate the 2027 Annual Sampling Plan for Medicines and Allied Substances, brought together key stakeholders and partners from the health, pharmaceutical, veterinary, and development sectors.

In his officiating remarks, Acting Director-General, Mr. Bonaventure Chilinde emphasized the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration and support in strengthening market surveillance as well as ensuring the quality, safety, and efficacy of medicines and allied substances available on the Zambian market.

"The Authority's market quality assurance mandate, carried out through routine sampling of medicines and allied substances is a critical exercise only made possible with the enduring support of partners, including the Global Fund through the Ministry of Health and the Churches Health Association of Zambia, (CHAZ), " he said.

The engagement provided a platform for stakeholders to contribute insights, share experiences, and propose strategies aimed at enhancing the national sampling programme.



PSZ SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE AND AGM 2026 BRINGS PHARMACY TOGETHER



From the 24th to the 26th of June, 2026, the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) joined industry leaders, academics, and hospital pharmacy professionals at the Pharmaceutical Society of Zambia (PSZ) Scientific Conference & Annual General Meeting 2026, at Radisson Blu Hotel in Livingstone.

The conference which was held under the theme: “One Health, One Pharmacy - Integrating Science, Practice, and Education for Resilient Health Systems," served as a key platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing, policy development that directly impacts patients nationwide and to discuss the future of pharmacy practice in Zambia. ZAMRA also took advantage of the conference to showcase its commitment to ensuring quality, safe, and efficacious medical products through stakeholder engagement and an exhibition. The meeting was officiated by the Permanent Secretary Technical Services at the Ministry of Health, Dr. Kennedy Lishimpi, who emphasised the critical role of a strong and effective medicines regulatory system in strengthening Zambia's health sector. In his remarks, Dr. Lishimpi highlighted the significance of the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) working towards attaining the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Benchmarking Tool Maturity Level 3 (ML3).

Achieving WHO Maturity Level 3 will position Zambia a regional hub for pharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturing, as it demonstrates the country's commitment to maintaining internationally recognised regulatory standards. .

During his visit to the ZAMRA exhibition stand, Dr. Lishimpi encouraged the Authority to intensify public awareness and stakeholder engagement on its Service Delivery Charter.

He further emphasised the importance of maintaining high standards of service delivery by ensuring that regulatory processes are conducted efficiently and within the stipulated timelines.

ZAMRA remains committed to regulatory excellence, continuous improvement, and safeguarding public health through effective regulation of medicines and allied health products.

“Achieving WHO Maturity Level 3 will position Zambia a regional hub for pharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturing...”

ZAMRA ADVANCES REGULATORY REFORMS FOR LOCAL MANUFACTURING



As the pharmaceutical sector evolves and the African Medicines Agency (AMA) advances regulatory harmonisation across the continent, regulators are exploring innovative approaches to improve access to quality-assured medicines while maintaining the highest standards of public health protection.

During a panel discussion at the Pharmaceutical Society of Zambia (PSZ) Scientific Conference and Annual General Meeting, 2026, Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) Director of Licensing, Surveillance and Enforcement, Mr. Matthews Mwale, reaffirmed that while regulatory processes must become more efficient to support local pharmaceutical manufacturing, patient safety, product quality, and efficacy remain non-negotiable.

Mr. Mwale highlighted key reforms underway at ZAMRA, including the establishment of a dedicated unit to support local manufacturers, and the prioritisation of locally manufactured products.

He also pointed out the optimisation of dossier review processes, increased use of regulatory reliance on trusted authorities, and continued investment in staff capacity and regulatory systems to improve efficiency without compromising scientific rigor. On pharmacovigilance, Mr Mwale acknowledged the need for stronger feedback to healthcare professionals who report adverse drug reactions and product quality issues.

He reaffirmed ZAMRA's commitment to enhancing communication while encouraging continued reporting to strengthen medicine safety and evidence-based regulatory decision-making. These initiatives reflect ZAMRA's resolve to build an efficient, science-driven regulatory system that supports local manufacturing while ensuring Zambians continue to have access to safe, effective, and quality-assured medical products.

PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR IMPROVED MEDICINE SAFETY MONITORING



Ensuring the safety of medicines throughout their lifecycle requires effective pharmacovigilance systems and timely reporting of adverse drug reactions and product quality issues.

On the 24th of June 2026, the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA), presented its proposed Regulatory Framework for Safety Monitoring, aimed at strengthening pharmacovigilance and enhancing the collection, reporting, and management of medicine safety information across the entire product lifecycle.

The presentation was delivered by ZAMRA Surveillance Officer - Pharmacovigilance Mr. Muluba Chilambe, who highlighted Zambia's current pharmacovigilance landscape, which continues to record low levels of adverse drug reaction reporting compared to international reporting benchmarks.

The proposed framework seeks to address this gap by strengthening the role of Marketing Authorisation Holders (MAHs) in monitoring the safety of their registered products. Once implemented, the framework will require MAHs to appoint a qualified local person responsible for pharmacovigilance, establish and maintain an effective pharmacovigilance system, as well as develop and implement pharmacovigilance and risk management plans.

The proposed regulatory framework will enhance early detection of safety concerns and strengthen patient confidence in medicines.

Additionally, the initiative is expected to enhance the timely detection of medicine safety concerns, facilitate prompt regulatory action, and ultimately improve patient safety and public confidence in medicines.

The presentation was made during the Pharmaceutical Society of Zambia (PSZ) Annual General Meeting, which was held from 24th-26th June 2026 at Radisson Blu Hotel in Livingstone.

“The proposed regulatory framework will enhance early detection of safety concerns and strengthen patient confidence in medicines.”

ENHANCING THE CAPACITY OF DOSSIER ASSESSORS THROUGH IN-HOUSE TRAINING



Tablet formulations remain the most commonly used dosage forms in human medicines, and due to the complexity and multiple stages involved in tablet manufacturing, effective control and monitoring of each stage are critical to ensuring consistent product quality, safety, and efficacy.

For this reason, the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) on 4th May, 2026 conducted an in-house training for dossier assessors as part of its continued efforts to strengthen staff capacity and promote professional development.

The training focused on the assessment of tablet manufacturing processes, process validation, and Batch Manufacturing Records (BMRs), with emphasis on understanding how each stage of manufacturing impacts product quality, safety, and efficacy.

Speaking during the opening session, Principal Registration Officer, Human Medicines, Mr. Sakeni Hadebe, highlighted the importance of linking manufacturing processes to product quality in order to ensure compliance with regulatory standards.

The training presentation was delivered by Mr. Lackson Ngoma, Registration Officer, Human Medicines, who emphasized that poorly controlled manufacturing processes can lead to product quality issues and recalls, also underscoring the need for robust process control and validation systems.

This training forms part of ZAMRA's ongoing initiatives aimed at building internal expertise and enhancing the effectiveness of regulatory assessments in order to safeguard public health.



STAKEHOLDERS REVIEW MEDICINE ADVERTISING GUIDELINES



Review and validation of the Draft Guidelines on the Promotion, Marketing, and Advertisement of Medicines and Allied Substances is key to medicine product regulation and safety. To this effect, from the 26th to the 28th of May 2026, the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) convened a crucial Technical Working Group (TWG) and stakeholder meeting to evaluate the above guidelines.

During the meeting, Acting Director-General Mr. Lyoko Nyambe emphasized ZAMRA's mandate of ensuring that medicines and allied substances in Zambia are safe, effective, and of high quality, and that their promotion and advertising are conducted responsibly and ethically.

The guidelines set clear standards for all forms of communication, including print, electronic media, social media, outdoor advertising, and promotional materials. They aim to prevent misleading or exaggerated claims that could jeopardize public health by encouraging inappropriate medicine use or undermining trust in the health system.

The guidelines further seek to ensure that all advertising be truthful, balanced, clear, and accurate, and authorised by ZAMRA before dissemination. Stakeholder input is vital to ensure the guidelines are practical, enforceable, and supportive of compliance.

ZAMRA recognises the important role stakeholders play, appreciates their valuable contributions and remains committed to safeguarding public health by regulating medicine advertising and promotion effectively. This collaboration is key in ensuring that the public and healthcare professionals receive reliable information that supports the rational use of medicines and allied substances.

ZAMRA ENHANCES PROTECTION OF MEDICINES FOR CHILDREN

The Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) in June launched a specialised training programme for inspectors in preparation for a nationwide Post-Marketing Surveillance (PMS) survey. This important survey will screen paediatric oral liquid medicines for harmful contaminants, specifically Ethylene Glycol (EG) and Diethylene Glycol (DEG).

During the launch, ZAMRA Director-General, Mr. Makomani Siyanga, pointed out that this proactive step was crucial as global health authorities tighten safeguards to protect public health. “This initiative responds to multiple WHO alerts since 2022 linked to child fatalities, ensuring Zambia’s medicines remain safe,” he said.



Mr. Siyanga reiterated that ZAMRA is mandated under the Medicines and Allied Substances Act No. 3 of 2013 to ensure that only safe, effective, and quality medicines are available in Zambia.

The upcoming survey will use advanced screening tools and WHO-approved protocols to detect and remove any harmful products from the market.

The training took place from 2nd to 5th June 2026, at Mulungushi International Conference Centre, equipping inspectors with the skills needed for this critical public health mission.

ZAMRA remains dedicated to safeguarding the health of children by enforcing strict quality standards in medicines.

STAKEHOLDERS REVIEW PROPOSED MEDICINE SAFETY REGULATIONS

From 7th to 8th May 2026, the **Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) hosted a Stakeholder Consultative Meeting on the proposed Medicines and Allied Substances (Safety Monitoring of Medicines and Allied Substances) Regulations, 2025.**

The proposed Regulations are aimed at strengthening the safety monitoring framework for medicines and allied substances in Zambia.

Among other provisions, the Regulations will require Holders of Marketing Authorisations to establish and maintain safety monitoring systems, develop safety monitoring plans, implement quality and risk management systems, and ensure timely reporting of safety concerns including serious adverse reactions and serious adverse events to the Authority.

Officiating at the meeting, ZAMRA Director-General Mr. Makomani Siyanga emphasised the importance of continued safety monitoring even after products have been authorised for use.

> "Some adverse reactions, adverse events, medication errors, quality defects, ineffectiveness, misuse, or other safety concerns may only become evident when products are used widely in real-life settings," he said.

The proposed regulations mandate robust safety monitoring systems, periodic reports, and timely adverse event reporting.

The meeting, organised by the ZAMRA Pharmacovigilance Unit, brought together key stakeholders at Best Western Plus Hotel in Lusaka to strengthen collaboration among regulators, industry, healthcare professionals, researchers, patients, and the public in safeguarding public health.



REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR "OTHER" SUBSTANCES TAKES SHAPE



"Your input as stakeholders is indispensable as you bring the **practical, commercial, and technical insights that allow us to create guidelines that are not only rigorous, transparent and protective** of public health but also pragmatic and facilitative of trade."

Mr. Makomani Siyanga, ZAMRA Director-General

From the 6th to the 7th of May 2026, the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) hosted a Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting aimed at addressing the existing regulatory gap surrounding products that do not fall under the categories currently defined in the Medicines and Allied Substances Act No. 3 of 2013.

This was in response to the evolving market, which has introduced various substances with medical and hygienic purposes that exist within a regulatory "grey area," creating challenges for both the Authority and industry stakeholders.

Speaking during the meeting, ZAMRA Director-General, Mr. Makomani Siyanga, highlighted the challenges arising from the lack of clear pre-market requirements for such products, including difficulties in effectively assessing and registering these products, unpredictable market entry, and unclear compliance standards.

Mr. Siyanga further emphasised the importance of stakeholder collaboration in the development of regulatory guidelines. "Your input as stakeholders is indispensable as you bring the practical, commercial, and technical insights that allow us to create guidelines that are not only rigorous, transparent and protective of public health, but also pragmatic and facilitative of trade."

The overarching objective remains to safeguard public health by ensuring that all products reaching consumers are safe, of good quality, and effective for their intended use.

The document will be circulated to stakeholders for comments before publication.

ZAMRA STRENGTHENS STAFF PREPAREDNESS THROUGH FIRE SAFETY TRAINING

“We are here because the safety of our staff, our offices, laboratory, records, medicine samples, and ultimately the services we provide to safeguard public health, matters deeply.”

Bonaventure Chilinde, ZAMRA Director of Laboratory Services



The difference between a small, manageable fire incident and a catastrophic loss often comes down to whether the people on the ground are trained, prepared, and equipped to respond in those critical first moments. This is why from 19th to 22nd May 2026, the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) hosted a Fighting Training, facilitated by the Zambia National Fire Brigade, for selected members of staff.



Speaking on behalf of ZAMRA Director-General Mr. Makomani Siyanga, Director of Laboratory Services, Bonaventure Chilinde emphasized the importance of preparedness in protecting both people and essential operations. “We are here because the safety of our staff, our offices, laboratory, records, medicine samples, and ultimately the services we provide to safeguard public health, matters deeply.”

Mr. Chilinde noted that in any emergency, trained personnel become a critical asset, while lack of preparedness can allow small incidents to escalate into disasters. The training included how to identify common causes of fires in the workplace, proper use firefighting equipment, safe escape and evacuation procedures and correct methods of responding to different types of fires.

By investing in fire safety training, ZAMRA continues to strengthen preparedness to protect lives, property, and the critical public health services.

SPOC NETWORK INTENSIFIES FIGHT AGAINST FALSIFIED MEDICINES



The Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA), on 27th May 2026, successfully hosted a quarterly meeting of the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) Network, a powerful alliance of government agencies, border authorities, and civil society dedicated to combating illegal, substandard, and falsified (SF) medical products in Zambia. Since its formation in September 2025, the SPOC Network has moved from planning to action, reinforcing Zambia's commitment to protecting public health and consumer rights.

Acting Director-General, Mr. Lyoko Nyambe emphasized that the proliferation of these dangerous products is a global crisis that threatens not only health but also national security, linking pharmaceutical crime to terrorism.

> "...proliferation of these dangerous products (substandard and falsified medicines) is **a global crisis that threatens not only health but also national security...**"

The meeting saw official appointments within the Network and held in-depth discussions on joint investigations and enforcement progress made over the last quarter. Participants comprised partners including the Zambia Police Service (Intellectual Property Unit); Competition and Consumer Protection Commission; Zambia Revenue Authority (Customs); Zambia Airports Corporation Limited; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Justice; Medicines Research and Access Platform; Drug Enforcement Commission; Department of Immigration; Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock; Zambia Medicines and Medical Supplies Agency; Zambia Pharmaceutical Business Forum and ZAMRA.

ENHANCING VETERINARY MEDICINE REGULATION FOR ANIMAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH



From 26th–29th May 2026, the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) conducted a Stakeholders Sensitisation Training on Regulatory Requirements for Veterinary Medicines and Allied Substances, bringing together key players in the veterinary medicines sector.

Acting Director-General Mr. Lyoko Nyambe pointed out that the rapid growth of Zambia's livestock sector and companion animal care presents both opportunity and regulatory responsibility. "Effective regulation protects your reputation, safeguards animal welfare, prevents the threat of antimicrobial resistance, and ensures that our farmers and pet owners can trust the products they use."

> "Effective regulation protects your reputation, safeguards animal welfare..."

Over the four days, participants engaged in discussions on critical regulatory requirements under the Medicines and Allied Substances Act, including registration of veterinary products before market entry, good distribution practices to maintain product integrity, labelling and advertising standards, adverse event reporting, Marketing Authorisation procedures and Post-Marketing Surveillance (PMS).

The training also provided an important platform for stakeholder engagement, helping to build a robust and practical regulatory system while promoting compliance and creating a level playing field for all industry players.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND REGULATORY AGENCIES CONDUCT A JOINT BORDER OPERATION AT THE KAZUNGULA BORDER POST



In an effort to combat transnational crime and to strengthen public safety across the region, law enforcement and regulatory agencies from Zambia and Botswana joined Zimbabwe in a three-day joint border operation from 27th to 29th May 2026 at the Kazungula Border Post under the ZAZIBONA framework, a collaborative initiative which stands for Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia.

The operation brought together agencies responsible for border security, trade, public health, and regulation, including the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA), Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA), Immigration Department, Zambia Police Service, Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC), and Port Health, alongside their counterparts from Botswana and Zimbabwe.

Such joint operations are essential in preventing the entry of falsified, substandard, and unregistered medicines that pose serious risks to public health. During the joint operation, 36 people were apprehended and some fined for various crimes, BWP 17,100 in fines was collected.

The exercise also highlighted the importance of information sharing, coordinated enforcement, and regional cooperation in ensuring that citizens have access to safe, quality, and effective medicines.



SIAVONGA COMMUNITY SENSITISED ON SAFE MEDICINE USE

From 9th to 12th June 2026, the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA), Chirundu Office in collaboration with the Siavonga District Health Office, conducted a community sensitisation exercise in Siavonga District, Southern Province, aimed at educating members of the public on the importance of purchasing medicines and allied substances only from registered and authorised premises.



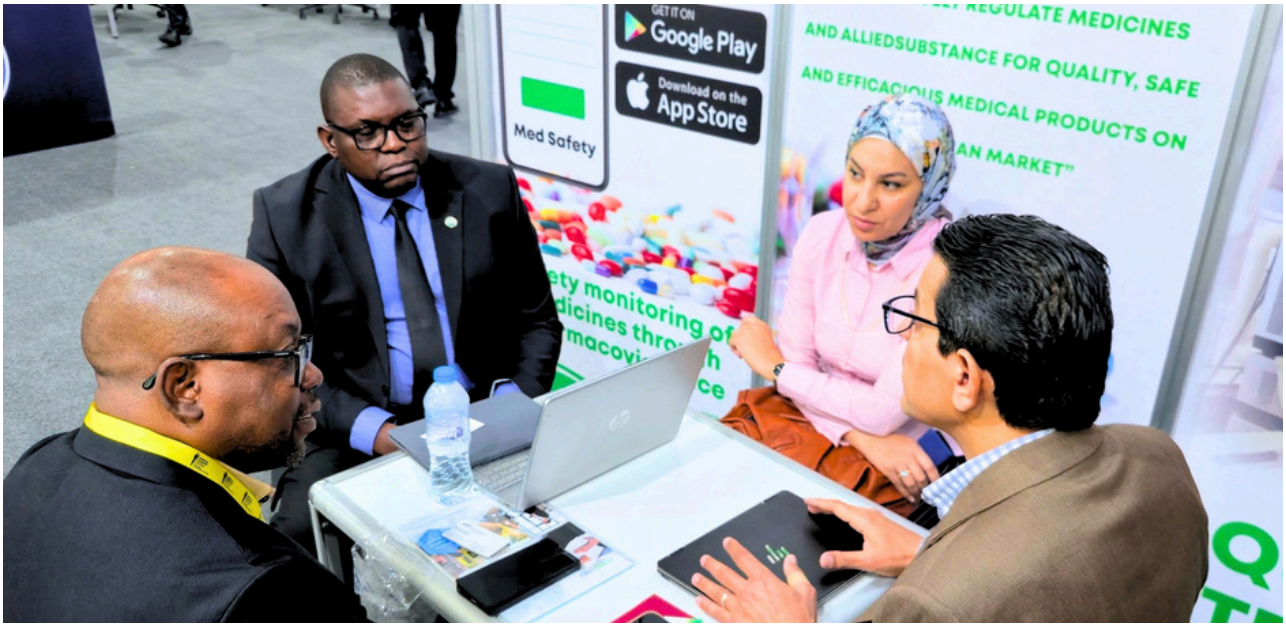
The activity, which followed reports of some individuals illegally selling and prescribing medicines to members of the public, also served as a platform for community engagement on the dangers associated with illegal prescribing and dispensing of medicines. Such practices pose significant public health risks, as the products involved may be unregistered, substandard, or falsified, thereby compromising patient safety and treatment outcomes.

> ...Report suspected illegal sale or prescribing of medicines to ZAMRA through the appropriate reporting channels, including **+260 211 432350.**

ZAMRA is committed to protecting public health through continuous stakeholder engagement, regulatory enforcement, and public awareness initiatives. Members of the public were encouraged to report suspected illegal sale or prescribing of medicines to ZAMRA through the appropriate reporting channels, including +260 211 432350. Similarly, pharmaceutical businesses should contact ZAMRA using the above line or visit www.zamra.co.zm for more information on Marketing Authorisation.



ZAMRA SHOWCASES REGULATORY EXPERTISE AT AFRICA HEALTH EXCON



For the first time in its regulatory journey, the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA), in June this year exhibited at the Africa Health Excon, the largest Medical Exhibition and Conference on the African continent, marking a significant milestone in positioning Zambia's regulatory system on the continental stage.

Commenting on the development, ZAMRA Director-General Mr. Makomani Siyanga pointed out that the Africa Health ExCon afforded the Authority an opportunity to share progress made in ensuring that Zambia becomes a destination for investment in quality-assured pharmaceutical services by promoting quality, safe and efficacious medicines and allied substances.

"ZAMRA is showcasing advancements made in Zambia's regulatory framework for medicines and allied substances; highlighting innovations in combating substandard and falsified medical products; expedited registration of medical products and timely access, all realized through harmonisation of regulatory standards under the African Medicines Agency(AMA)," said Mr. Siyanga.

And Zambia's Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt, His Excellency, Major General Topply Mulambo Lubaya (Rtd) said, ZAMRA's engagement at the Africa Health ExCon underscored the Government of Zambia's commitment to strengthening regulatory systems, ensuring access to quality medicines and allied substances for all Zambians and resolve to protect public health through regional and international collaboration.

The event which took place from 15th to 18th June 2026 in Cairo, Egypt brought together health regulators, pharmaceutical innovators, policy makers, and health professionals from across Africa and the world to network, learn from each other and build partnerships that strengthen medicine safety across the region.

PHOTO FOCUS



ZAMRA Director-General Mr. Makomani Siyanga and Director of Marketing Authorisation Mr. Lyoko Nyambe at the ZAMRA stand during Africa Health ExCon 2026 in Cairo, Egypt.



Cecilia Malewa and Chipupu Kandeke raise awareness of Medicine Safety Monitoring on ZNBC Radio 4



Doctor Chanda Mwamba discussing the Veterinary Department function on ZNBC Radio 2



Pharmacovigilance Training of Trainers practical session at Chilenje Level 1 Hospital

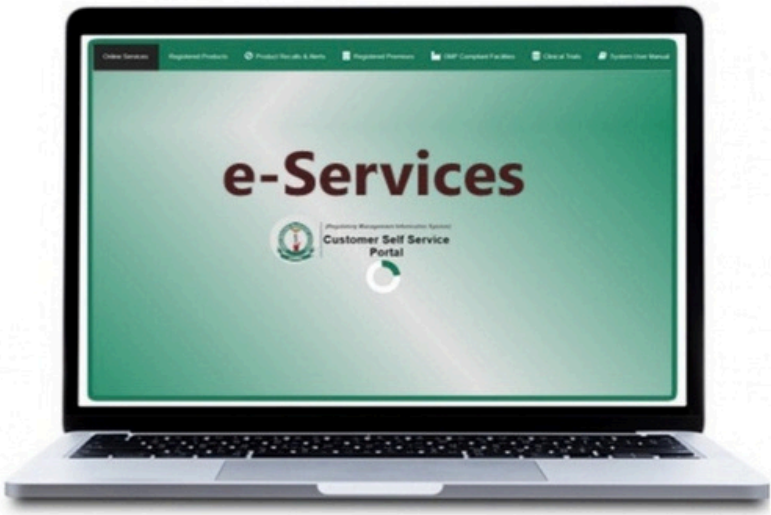


Director Laboratory Services, Mr. Bonaventure Chilinde discussing the function of the National Drug Quality Control Laboratory on ZNBC Radio 2



ZAMRA exhibits at the Pharmaceutical Society of Zambia Scientific Conference and Annual General Meeting 2027





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