ZAMBIA MEDICINES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

PRESS STATEMENT
(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

ZAMRA, IN JOINT OPERATION WITH DEC, APPREHENDS THREE FOREIGN NATIONALS FOR ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF UNREGISTERED MEDICINES

Lusaka November 10, 2026 – The Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA), in collaboration with the Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC), has apprehended three foreign nationals at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport (KKIA) for the alleged illegal importation of unregistered medicines into Zambia.

The suspects comprise two Indian nationals, identified as Sarfaraz Abdul Samad, aged 28, and Nadim Umarji Patel, aged 31, and one Lebanese national, Abou Khaijl Hamze, aged 36. They were intercepted at approximately 01:00 hours on Friday, 6th November 2026, upon arrival aboard an Ethiopian Airlines flight.

During routine regulatory inspections at the port of entry, ZAMRA Inspectors discovered several packages containing unregistered medicines in the suspects' luggage. The individuals failed to produce valid import permits issued by the Authority, contrary to Section 35(1) of the Medicines and Allied Substances Act No. 3 of 2013 of the Laws of Zambia.

The medicines have since been seized, while the suspects remain in lawful custody, assisting ZAMRA and DEC with ongoing investigations. Appropriate charges will be preferred in accordance with the law, subject to the outcome of the investigations.

ZAMRA wishes to emphasise that the importation of medicines and allied substances into Zambia is subject to strict regulatory controls. These requirements are intended to ensure that all medicines entering the Zambian market meet the required standards of safety, quality and efficacy, thereby protecting the public from potential exposure to substandard, falsified, unsafe or otherwise unregulated medical products.

The Authority therefore reminds members of the public, commercial importers and international travellers that medicines and allied substances must not be imported into Zambia without complying with the applicable regulatory requirements, including obtaining the necessary import permits where required.

ZAMRA remains resolute in strengthening regulatory surveillance and enforcement at all points of entry and across the pharmaceutical supply chain. The Authority will continue

working closely with law enforcement agencies and other relevant stakeholders to detect, prevent and deter the illegal importation, distribution and sale of unregistered medicines.

The protection of public health remains our foremost priority.

Issued by:

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