



8<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.

## **PRESS STATEMENT (For Immediate Release)**

### **PSZ STATEMENT ON PALIAMENTARY ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON DRUG SUPPLY**

The Pharmaceutical Society of Zambia (PSZ) is a professional body that represents Pharmacists, Pharmacy Technologists, and endeavours to inform government policy direction on medicines, medical devices and allied substances in order to foster, preserve and protect the integrity and safety of the people of Zambia and in so doing to safeguard the nation. The other main aim of the PSZ is to ensure that the highest standards of pharmaceutical training and practice across all sectors are maintained to ultimately ensure that the nation receives the best pharmaceutical care and practice.

“It has recently become public knowledge through the Parliamentary Accounts Committee that the Zambian populace has been subjected to defective medicines and medical supplies such as paracetamol, condoms and examination gloves”. The PSZ is working and shall continue working hand in hand with the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) and Medical Stores Limited (MSL) to ensure that this matter is followed and concluded amicably to ensure the safety of the public. As a professional body together with MoH, ZAMRA, MSL and other key stakeholders, we shall endeavour to ensure that only the safest and highest quality of medicines and medical supplies are allowed and distributed on the Zambian market. This shall be done through continuous engagement to ensure professional quantification, transparent procurement processes and procedures, safe product storage and efficient distribution of medicines and allied products.

Further, we would like to urge all stakeholders including the MoH, ZAMRA, MSL and other strategic players in the pharmaceutical industry to develop and or continue with the culture of lending a listening ear to technocrats and professional bodies such as the PSZ on matters bordering on professional practice and ethics. In the same vein, we would like to state that the

profession shall quickly study this matter, and if need take action to ensure that none of our members acted or continues to act in an unprofessional or unethical manner through our well-established systems.

As stated, the PSZ is already engaging the ministry to see to it that the matter is dealt with accordingly and in a professional manner in order to prevent future occurrences. We shall together with relevant institutions such as ZAMRA and MSL ensure that batches/consignments of the said defective pharmaceutical products are traced, quarantined and recalled for further investigations. To prevent such future occurrences, the professional body will engage the MoH to ensure the establishment of the pharmaceutical directorate is expedited and concluded as soon as possible as this is one way of optimising pharmaceutical services in the country. We also urge the public to remain calm and vigilant even as further investigations are being undertaken and as PSZ, we are with you and we shall stand by you.

In conclusion, we would like to assure the nation that we are on hand to ensure public safety and to work closely with all relevant stakeholders. Ours is to always stand by our Motto **“EXCELLENCE IN PRACTICE”**

Issued by;  
**Saini Kennedy L.**  
PRESIDENT

