Quality Medicines for Malawi

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PRESS RELEASE

PMRA LAUNCHES STATE-OF-THE-ART LABORATORY, CELEBRATES ISO/IEC 17025:2017 ACCREDITATION

Lilongwe, Tuesday, 3rd December, 2024 - The Pharmacy and Medicines Regulatory Authority (PMRA) proudly announces the official launch of its state-of-the-art National Medicines Quality Control Laboratory (NMQCL) and celebration of the facility's ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Accreditation to be presided over by Minister of Health, Hon. Khumbize Kandodo Chiponda, MP on Wednesday, 4th December, 2024.

The double celebration will start with a solidarity walk from Chilambula High Way to PMRA Head Offices in Area 5 for the official launch and thereafter proceed to Crossroads Hotel for the official presentation of the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Accreditation Certificate to PMRA by the Chief Executive Officer of the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS).

PMRA with funding from Malawi Government and Global Fund embarked on the construction of the Laboratory to address challenges related to Good Laboratory Practices, notably lack of space and absence of quality management system (QMS), in compliance with Section 79 of the PMRA Act, 2019.

Following completion of the construction works for the NMQCL, PMRA has made significant strides in strengthening its regulatory capacity, culminating in the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 accreditation of the Laboratory on 22nd February, 2024 by SADCAS.

The launch of the PMRA Laboratory marks a significant milestone in ensuring the quality, safety, and efficacy of medicines in Malawi. The Lab's ISO/IEC 17025:2017 accreditation is a testament to PMRA's commitment to international standards.

The ISO/IEC 17025:2017 accreditation of the National Medicines Quality Control Laboratory enhances credibility, ensures reliable results, and boosts client confidence. It also opens doors to international markets and opportunities to test medicines for regional countries and UN organizations; and ultimately reinforces Malawi's capacity to assure quality of medicines.

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The NMQCL is established under Section 79 of the PMRA Act, 2019 as one of the five departments of PMRA with the objective of verifying the safety, quality and efficacy of medicines and allied substances which are manufactured in or imported into the country by persons who are authorized or licensed under the Act.

For media enquiries, contact PMRA Public Relations Officer on 0899 56 73 65 or email at jjosiah@pmra.mw.

Mphatso Kawaye
DIRECTOR GENERAL

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About PMRA:
The Pharmacy and Medicines Regulatory Authority (PMRA) is a statutory organization established by the PMRA Act No. 9 of 2019 to regulate medicines, allied substances [Acaricides, Cosmetics, disinfectants, food Supplements, feed additives and supplements, traditional medicines, medical and surgical sundries, medical devices, reagents and condoms] and the practice of the pharmacy profession in Malawi.

About SADCAS
The Southern African Development Community Accreditation Services (SADCAS) is a multi-economy accreditation body established in terms of Article 15 B of the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade with the primary purpose of ensuring that conformity assessment service providers (calibration/testing/medical laboratories, certification and inspection bodies) operating in those SADC Member States which do not have national accreditation bodies are subject to an oversight by an authoritative body.

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