

## IMPORTANT PUBLIC WARNING!

2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2020

**Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority (BoMRA)** reminds consumers to be cautious of stores and websites selling products that claim to prevent, mitigate, treat, diagnose or cure serious illnesses, including Covid-19. Some of the fake products claim to kill disease agents such as coronavirus, the agent that causes the Covid-19 disease.

There are currently no vaccines or drugs approved to treat or prevent Covid-19. Although there are investigational Covid-19 vaccines and treatments under development, these products are in the early stages of product development and have not yet been fully tested for safety or effectiveness. Fraudulent products may come in many varieties, including dietary supplements and other foods, antiseptics as well as products purporting to be drugs, medical devices or vaccines.

1. Products that claim to cure, mitigate, treat, diagnose or prevent disease, but are not proven safe and effective for those purposes, defraud consumers of money and can leave consumers with false hope and at risk of serious harm. Using these products may also lead to delays in getting proper diagnosis and treatment of potentially serious diseases and conditions.
2. The selling of unregistered, non-exempted and fraudulent medical products is a serious violation of the **Medicines and Related Substances Act ("MRSa")**. The Authority warns that those who will be found to be in violation of the MRSa will be subjected to legal action, prosecution and possible jail time.
3. **BoMRA exists to ensure that medical products for both human and animal use** placed on the market meet the standards of quality, safety and efficacy, and that these products are sold from appropriately licensed channels. The Authority is involved in both own and joint operations addressing safety concerns related to products being sold that are not in line with its policy and others being marketed with unproven claims or inadequate labelling.
4. The public is also encouraged to report any such claims of promotion, sale and use of products to the **BoMRA Legal Enforcement** division via our toll-free number, mobile phone number or email below:

**Toll Free: 0800 600 216**

**Tel: (+267) 373 1782**

**Mobile: (+267) 74 988 042/71 737 172**

**Email: [info@bomra.co.bw](mailto:info@bomra.co.bw)**