

PRESS RELEASE:



IMPORTANT PUBLIC WARNING!

24th March, 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.

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, 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 place consumers 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 violations of the MRSA will be subjected to legal action, prosecution and possible jail time.
3. The public is also encouraged to report any such claims of promotion, sale and use of products to the **BoMRA Legal Enforcement** division via a toll-free number, mobile phone number or email address below;

Toll Free: 0800 600 216

Tel: (+267) 373 1782

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

Email: info@bomra.co.bw

 Plot 112
International Finance Park,
Gaborone
 +267 373 1727/20
 Toll Free : 0800 600 216
 +267 318 6254

 +267 76 895 896
 Private Bag 2
Gaborone Station,
Botswana
 info@bomra.co.bw
 Botswana Medicines Regulatory
Authority

- Integrity
- Customer Focus
- Efficiency
- TeamWork

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