



**Date: 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025**

## **MISREPRESENTATION OF A REGULATORY DECISION**

1. The Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority (BoMRA) seeks to clarify the misrepresentation of its regulatory decision regarding the suspension of certain veterinary medicines due to EU ban of these substances. A recent Sunday standard publication misinterpreted the decision as a doping offence, which is inaccurate and misleading.
2. Due to its lack of official input from the Botswana Medicine Regulatory Authority (BoMRA) and the Department of Veterinary Services DVS, the article presents an inaccurate and misleading narrative. This not only distorts the facts but also risks creating confusion and undermining public trust in our regulatory processes that are vital to public health and food safety. What is particularly concerning is the allegations of potential country non-compliance and possible delisting from the EU market, which is crucial for Botswana's beef export industry.
3. The suspension of certain medicines is a routine regulatory process informed by multiple factors, including their prohibition by international partners. In the case of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VMPs) in question BoMRA carried out an extensive and rigorous review following notification of the ban by the Director of Veterinary Services. This review was aimed at aligning Botswana's veterinary practices with international trading partner food safety standards as well as combating antimicrobial resistance which remains a public health concern. By removing these products from use in animals we do not only seek to align with EU requirements but also to mitigate the risk of antimicrobial resistance, thereby ensuring essential medicines remain effective for both humans and animals.
4. The claims of regulatory negligence or undue delays by the authorities undermine the essential due process and careful deliberation that are critical when implementing such regulatory decisions. The suspension process requires a robust regulatory approach, including engagement with veterinary professionals, addressing legal gaps, and the development of appropriate Statutory Instruments (SI)
5. We regret that the story was published before BoMRA or the Department of Veterinary Services had the opportunity to provide a detailed response, which would ensure a more accurate and informed narrative.
6. We urge media practitioners to adhere to responsible and ethical reporting practices and exercise caution and patience when reporting on regulatory matters, especially those involving public health/wellbeing and strategic economic matters, to prevent panic and misinformation.
7. We welcome further engagement on the matter to ensure that accurate information is disseminated

For any additional information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact BoMRA PUBLIC RELATIONS, [pr@bomra.co.bw](mailto:pr@bomra.co.bw) / [ikgosidiile@bomra.co.bw](mailto:ikgosidiile@bomra.co.bw) / +267 373 1727 or 76 895 896.

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