**MEDIA RELEASE**

**SAHPRA signs MoU with Rwanda Food and Drug Authority**

**Embargo: Immediate release**

**Kigali - Rwanda, 12 April 2024 –** The South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Rwanda Food and Drug Authority (Rwanda FDA).

The MOU between SAHPRA and Rwanda FDA will allow the regulators to develop a cooperative partnership towards ensuring access to safe, quality, and effective health products in the respective countries.

## Areas of cooperation

SAHPRA and Rwanda FDA will cooperate in joint products reviews and inspections to enable efficient access to health products. The World Health Organization (WHO) has set up an initiative for establishing a mRNA technology transfer hub, together with six spokes, in Africa as a strategy to increase mRNA vaccine production capacity in under-served regions and thus promote regional health security. Rwanda is one of the spokes and South Africa being the hub. Thus, building on this model, SAHPRA and Rwanda FDA will collaborate in the area of mRNA vaccines regulatory oversight.

“The forging of partnerships with fellow African National Regulatory Authorities, namely the Rwanda Food and Drug Authority allows SAHPRA to further our drive in enhancing and building capacity on the continent,” says SAHPRA CEO, Dr Boitumelo Semete-Makokotlela.

"The signing of this MoU underscores the profound potential of collaboration among African NRAs, affirming that the solutions to our shared challenges lie within our continent. Rwanda FDA staunchly believes in the power of collaboration and strategic partnerships. This MoU symbolises the culmination of dedicated efforts and signifies our unwavering commitment to facilitating mutual exchange and enhancing regulatory oversight. Through collaborative efforts with SAHPRA, we aim to strengthen our regulatory capacity and promote public health. As we embark on this journey together, let us harness the collective strength of our agencies to advance the pharmaceutical sector in Rwanda and beyond," shares Rwanda FDA Director-General, Professor Emile Bienvenu.

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**About SAHPRA:**

SAHPRA is tasked with regulating (monitoring, evaluating, investigating, inspecting and registering) all health products. This includes clinical trials, complementary medicines, medical devices and in-vitro diagnostics (IVDs). Furthermore, SAHPRA has the added responsibility of overseeing radiation control in South Africa. SAHPRA's mandate is outlined in the Medicines and Related Substances Act (Act No 101 of 1965 as amended) as well as the Hazardous Substances Act (Act No 15 of 1973).

SAHPRA has three pillars to ensure that medicines, medical devices and IVDs meet the requisite standards to protect the health and well-being of all who reside in South Africa:

- Safety

- Efficacy
- Quality

It is these three pillars that define the ethos of SAHPRA.

**About Rwanda FDA:**

Rwanda Food and Drugs Authority hereafter designated as the "Authority", was established by the law Nº 003/2018 of 09/02/2018 determining its mission, organization and functioning. The mandate of the Authority is to protect public health through regulation of human and veterinary medicines, vaccines and other biological products, processed foods, poisons, medicated cosmetics, medical devices, household chemical substances, tobacco and tobacco products.

**Notes to Editors:**

SAHPRA will post this media release on our website. Navigate to the News section on the website.

A podcast will be recorded and posted on the home page. Scroll don the home page to "**SAHPRA TV and Podcasts**". Podcasts appear on the right-hand side.

Should you request an interview for television, please send your request to media@sahpra.org.za and copy madimetja.mashishi@sahpra.org.za. Include your discussion points in your request.

Updates on vaccine registration can be accessed here:

*Vaccines - News and updates (sahpra.org.za)* - https://www.sahpra.org.za/news-and-updates/vaccines-news-and-updates/