

PRESS RELEASE

GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE MOVES TO RESTRICT TRAMADOL MISUSE WHILE PROTECTING PATIENT CARE

(for immediate release)

The Government of Sierra Leone, through the Ministry of Health, has announced immediate measures to restrict and control the misuse of tramadol, citing growing public-health and safety concerns.

The decision follows technical recommendations from the Pharmacy Board of Sierra Leone and is issued under Section 29(1) of the Pharmacy and Drugs Act, 2001.

Evidence reviewed by Government links the misuse of high-dose tramadol to addiction, road traffic accidents, violent behaviour, seizures, overdoses, and preventable deaths particularly among young people. Many of the high-strength products circulating in communities have no legitimate role in standard medical care.

Under the new directive:

- Only **Tramadol 50 mg capsules** are permitted for oral use.
- Only **Tramadol 50 mg/mL injectable formulations** are permitted, and these may be used **exclusively in recognised health facilities** under professional supervision.
- Any Tramadol product outside these limits is illegal and subject to seizure.

The Ministry emphasises that this action is **not a ban on pain treatment**. Tramadol remains available for patients who genuinely need it, under controlled and safe conditions.

The Pharmacy Board of Sierra Leone has been mandated to enforce the directive through inspections, seizures, and sanctions against non-compliant importers and distributors, working in collaboration with law-enforcement and border agencies.

The Ministry of Health states that the measures are consistent with Government's broader commitment to human capital development and its ongoing efforts to address substance abuse, including the fight against Kush.

Government calls on health professionals, pharmaceutical operators, communities, and families to cooperate fully in protecting public health and safeguarding the future of Sierra Leone's youth.



PHARMACY BOARD OF SIERRA LEONE
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

CENTRAL MEDICAL STORES COMPOUND, NEW ENGLAND VILLI



URGENT RELEASE

THE PHARMACY BOARD OF SIERRA LEONE WILL LIKE TO INFORM ITS CLIENTS AND GENERAL PUBLIC THAT IN ORDER TO IMPROVE ON THE EFFICIENCY BY WHICH THE REVENUE GENERATED BY THE BOARD IS COLLECTED, THE BOARD IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NATIONAL REVENUE AUTHORITY (NRA) IS TRANSITIONING FROM PHYSICAL PAYMENT OF LICENSING FEES, PROFESSIONAL FEES, FINES AND OTHER SERVICE CHARGES TO THE BANKING SYSTEM TO A MORE CONVENIENT ELECTRONIC VERSION WHICH CAN BE DONE THROUGH A MOBILE PHONE USING ORANGE MONEY, AFRIMONEY, ROKEL SIMKORPOR, SMART MONEY PLATFORMS AND ECOBANK CREDIT CARD.

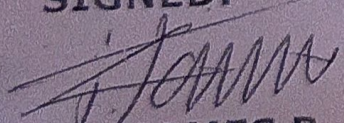
THE PHARMACY BOARD OF SIERRA LEONE WILL HOWEVER LIKE TO INFORM ITS CLIENTS THAT ALL REGULATORY PROCESSES CARRIED OUT BY THE BOARD'S VARIOUS OFFICES FOR SERVICES RENDERED WILL STILL BE MAINTAINED.

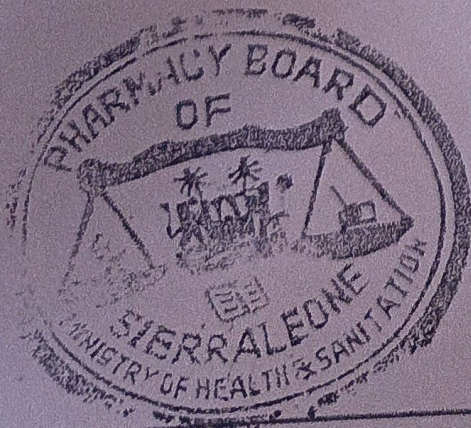
PLEASE NOTE THAT FOR ANY CLIENT TO PROCEED WITH PAYMENT FOR ANY SERVICE RENDERED BY THE BOARD A ONE TIME PASSWORD (OTP) CODE GENERATED BY THE BOARD FINANCE OFFICES WILL BE ISSUED TO THE CLIENT WHICH THE CLIENT MUST USE AS KEY TO ACCESS THE ELECTRONIC PLATFORM

THE PHARMACY BOARD OF SIERRA LEONE COUNTS ON THE SUPPORT OF ITS NUMEROUS CLIENTS WITH REGARDS THIS IMPORTANT TRANSITIONING PROCESS FOR THE PAYMENT OF SERVICES RENDERED BY THE BOARD AS ALWAYS.

FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION ON THE ABOVE PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT THE BOARD THROUGH THE USUAL CHANNELS.

SIGNED:


DR. JAMES P. KOMEH
REGISTRAR.





PUBLIC NOTICE

16th January, 2025

The Pharmacy Board of Sierra Leone wishes to inform the general public that it has put a hold on the application process for opening of new pharmaceutical outlets effective January 2025.

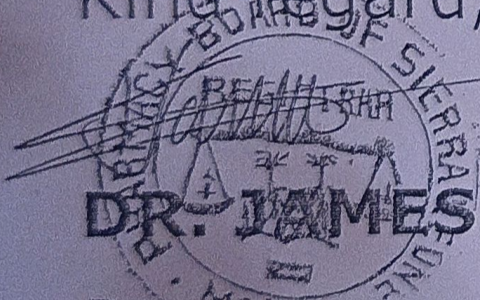
This intervention is a measure to allow Pharmacy Board to effectively regulate the pharmaceutical landscape that promotes Public Health and preserves the quality of care.

Your usual cooperation is solicited

Kind regard,

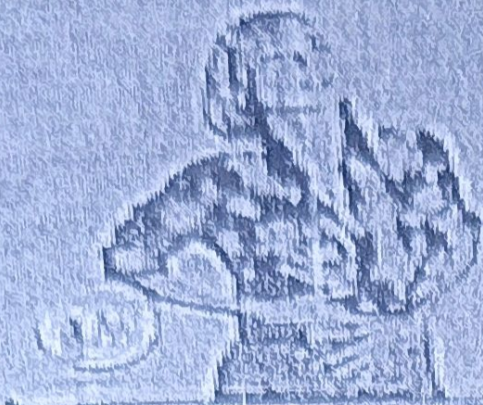
DR. JAMES P. KOMEH

Registrar



DIAZOLE

Lepraanilide Capsules DP-2 mg



10 x 0.5-100 capsules

DIAMIDE

Formazinone Capsules 100 mg

Antidiuretic Drug



DIAZOLE

100mg Tablets

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STORE IN A COOL, DARK & DRY PLACE

KEEP MEDICINE AWAY FROM CHILDREN

Code No: M/DRUGS/25-KD/350

Batch No: C1024

Mfg Date: 05/2024

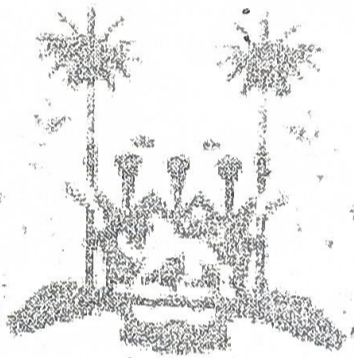
Exp Date: 04/2027



Manufactured Exclusively for

Wellpro WP Pharmacy

34, Wellington Street, Freetown,
Sierra Leone



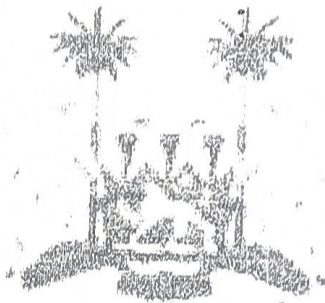
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Signed By:



Dr. James P. Komeh
Registrar



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PHARMACY BOARD OF SIERRA LEONE
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
CENTRAL MEDICAL STORES COMPOUND, NEW ENGLAND VILLE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 29th January, 2025

The general public is hereby informed that it has come to the notice of the Pharmacy Board of Sierra Leone that the Pharmaceutical Product **Diazole** which is currently in circulation was illegally imported into the country for which no import permit was granted by the Board and hence at this point the Board cannot guarantee its safety nor its efficacy.

The general public is furthered informed that this product is a counterfeit version of the pharmaceutical product **Diamide** that is registered with the Board by the market authorization holder Welfare Pharmacy.

The Pharmacy Board therefore directs that this product should not be consumed and that any information concerning the sale, distribution and storage of this product should be directed to the Board through usual channels for further regulatory action.

The Board will like to take this opportunity to assure the general public of its continued effort to protect and safeguard public health at all times.

If you any further clarification with regard the above please do not hesitate to contact the Board through the usual channels.

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Lack of Compliance: Noronic pharmaceuticals Pvt, Ltd, India, has been found in violation of multiple regulations set forth by both national and international health authorities. This includes failure to adhere to the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) as recommended by credible Global Institutions such as the World Health Organization (WHO).

In light of these findings, PBSL has taken the following measures:


Noronic Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd India:

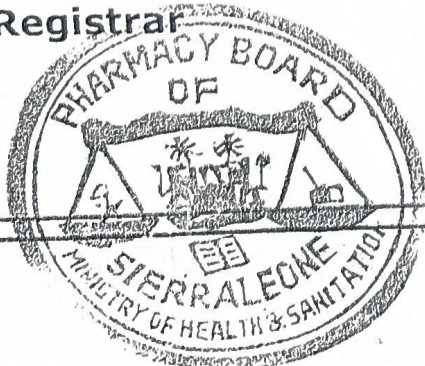
- **Immediate Operational Halt:** All products manufactured and distributed by Noronic pharmaceuticals Pvt, Ltd, India, are therefore suspended forthwith.
- **Professional/Consumer Alert:** Patients and healthcare providers are urged to cease the use of any products manufactured by Noronic pharmaceuticals Pvt, Ltd, India.

The decision to suspend all products manufactured and distributed by Noronic pharmaceuticals Pvt, Ltd, India, reflects PBSL's unwavering commitment to uphold stringent quality standards in the pharmaceutical sector. PBSL emphasizes that public health and safety must remain a collective priority, and it calls on all pharmaceutical manufacturers to adhere to high standards of quality and compliance.

For any immediate concerns regarding the affected products, consumers can contact the Pharmacy Board of Sierra Leone through the usual channels.

Signed By:


Dr. James P. Komeh
Registrar



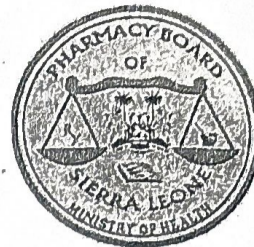
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PHARMACY BOARD OF SIERRA LEONE
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

CENTRAL MEDICAL STORES COMPOUND, NEW ENGLAND VILLE



Date: 3rd February, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

As you may recall, on June 12, 2024, the Pharmacy Board of Sierra Leone issued a press release informing the public about suspected quality defects on certain products manufactured by

Noronic Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd,
Block No.763/2 village Indrad, Ta.Kadi,
India.

In a decisive move to protect public health and safety, PBSL is announcing the immediate suspension of all products manufactured and distributed by Noronic pharmaceuticals Pvt, Ltd, India. This action follows a comprehensive investigation revealing severe quality defects in their medicinal products and blatant non-compliance with essential international standards.

The investigation, which included rigorous Good Manufacturing Practice inspections and product testing, uncovered the following critical issues:

Quality Deficiencies: Investigators identified significant defects in several product batches rendering them substandard and this can have severe health consequences, particularly for vulnerable populations who rely on these products for treatment. The agency is deeply concerned about the potential harm and is taking swift action to mitigate any risks.

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PHARMACY BOARD OF SIERRA LEONE

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

CENTRAL MEDICAL STORES COMPOUND, NEW ENGLAND VILLE



Date: 5th February, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On 16th January, 2025, the Pharmacy Board issued a notice to temporarily put on hold the opening of new pharmaceutical outlets across the country. This decision was made as a strategic measure to review and enhance current oversight concerning pharmaceutical premises.

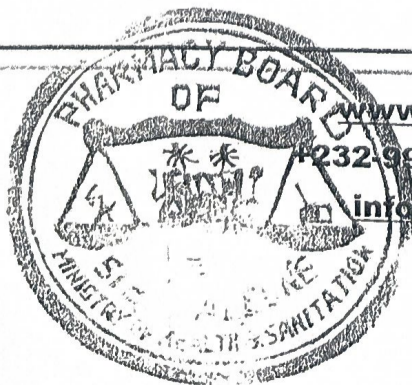
After careful consideration and extensive consultations with relevant stakeholders including the Parliamentary Committee on Health, the Board has determined that it is in the best interest of public health to enhance continued access to medications across the country to allow the licensing of Pharmaceutical outlets including potential applicants as prescribed by law. However the Board wishes to encourage all stakeholders to engage constructively with the PBSL to ensure that these outlets meet the necessary established criteria for operation such as premises design including their inspection and location clearances. The overall goal is to enhance public health services.

We express our gratitude for your understanding and collaboration during the review period and appreciate your commitment to maintaining high standards of pharmaceutical care and patient access. Please feel free to contact our offices directly at [insert contact information] should you have any questions or require further clarification regarding this announcement.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Signed:

Dr. James P. Komeh.
Registrar.



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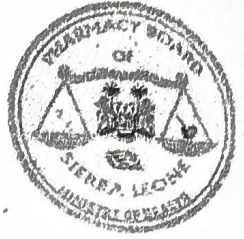




PHARMACY BOARD OF SIERRA LEONE

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

CENTRAL MEDICAL STORES COMPOUND, NEW ENGLAND VILLE.



PUBLIC NOTICE

DATE: 15th May, 2025

The general public is hereby informed that due to the rise in the number of Mpox cases across the country, the Pharmacy Board of Sierra Leone has directed that Proprietors/Proprietress of pharmaceutical (Patent, Drugstore, Pharmacy Retail, Import and Wholesale) and cosmetic outlets to institute the following infection prevention and control measures:

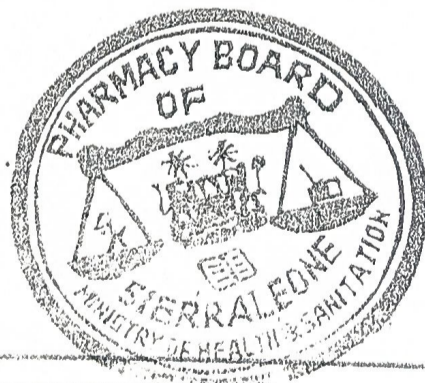
1. Place veronica bucket and hand sanitizer at the entrance of the outlet
2. Ensure customers/clients wash their hands and use hand sanitizer before entering the outlet
3. Observe social distance between you and the clients/customers

The Board solicits the support of members of the general public in the implementation of the above measures,

The Board would like to assure the general public of its continued role in protecting public health.

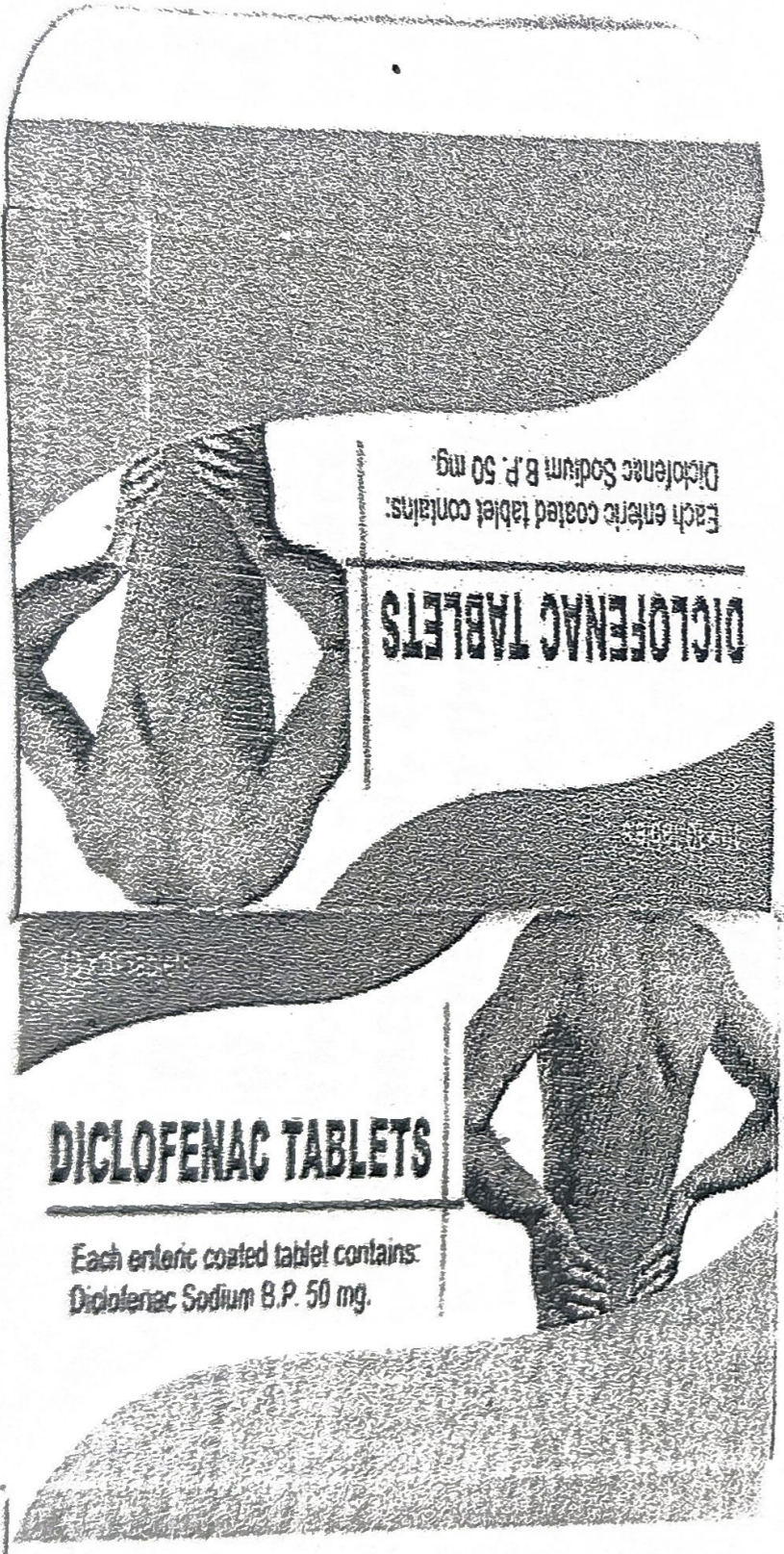
Signed:


Dr. James P. Komeh
REGISTRAR



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Each enteric coated tablet contains:
Diclofenac Sodium B.P. 50 mg.

DICLOFENAC TABLETS

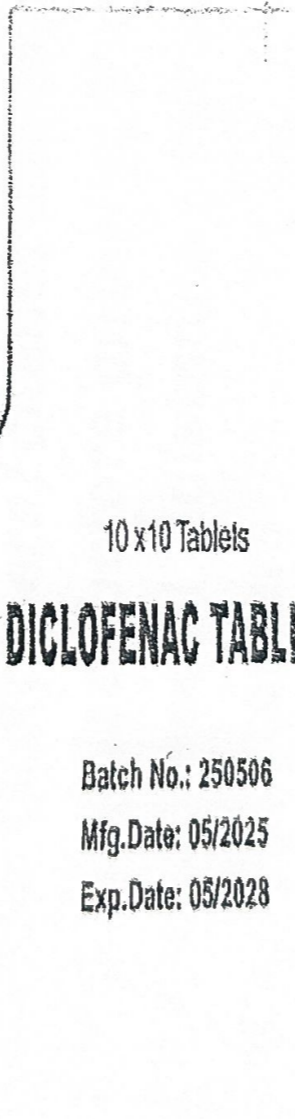
DICLOFENAC TABLETS

Each enteric coated tablet contains:
Diclofenac Sodium B.P. 50 mg.

10 x 10 Tablets

DICLOFENAC TABLETS

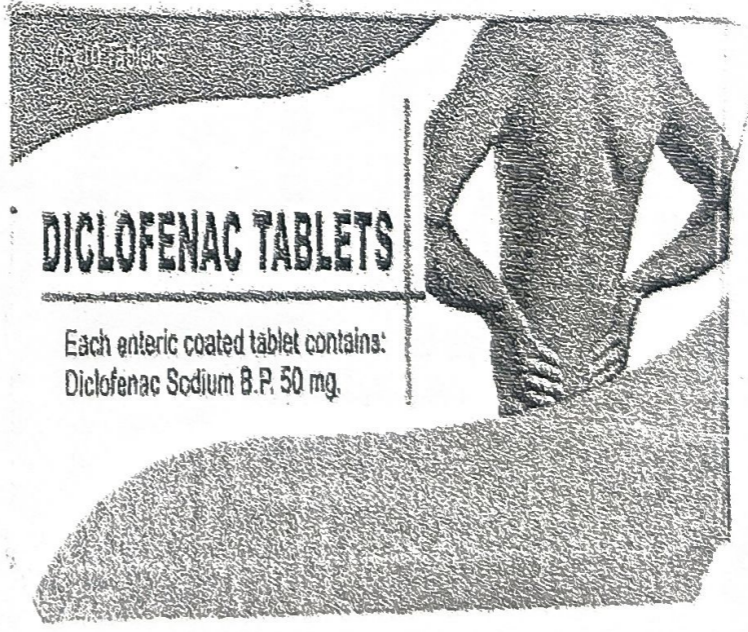
Store away from light and
humidity in a cool place
to not exceed the prescribed dose
KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN
DO NOT USE IF THE SEAL IS BROKEN
OR THE TABLETS ARE DAMAGED
OR EXPIRED
MAY BE USED FOR PAIN RELIEF
AND INFLAMMATION
SEE YOUR DOCTOR FOR MORE INFORMATION



10 x 10 Tablets

DICLOFENAC TABLETS

Batch No.: 250506
Mfg.Date: 05/2025
Exp.Date: 05/2028



10 x 10 Tablets

DICLOFENAC TABLETS

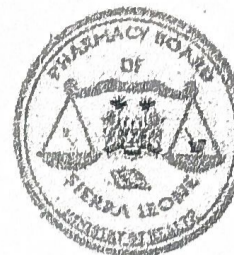
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Diclofenac Sodium B.P. 50 mg.



PHARMACY BOARD OF SIERRA LEONE

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

CENTRAL MEDICAL STORES COMPOUND, NEW ENGLAND VILLE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 17th September 2025

The general public is hereby informed that it has come to the notice of the Pharmacy Board of Sierra Leone that the Pharmaceutical product **Diclofenac Tablets** which is currently in circulation was illegally imported into the country by Leigh Pharmaceuticals of No. 10 Regent Road for which no import permit was granted by the Board and hence the Board cannot guarantee its efficacy nor its safety.

The general public is further informed that this product is a counterfeit version of the Pharmaceutical product **Paludic** that is registered with the Board by the market authorization holder Abanita Pharmaceuticals.

The Pharmacy Board therefore directs that this product should not be consumed and that any information concerning the sale, distribution and storage of this product should be directed to the Board through the usual channels for further regulatory action.

The Board will like to take this opportunity to assure the general public of its continued effort to protect and safeguard public health at all times.

If you need any further clarification with regards the above please do not hesitate to contact the Board through the usual channels.

Signed by:

Dr. James P. Komeh

Registrar

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