

PHARMACY COUNCIL  
TANZANIA

# news



Reg. No. 00000269

Volume 1, Issue 4

Newsletter  
October - December 2019



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"Promoting Good Pharmacy Practice to Save Lives"

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**Cover Page:** The Pharmacy Council representatives speaking with students on various functions of the Council at an exhibition held during the 18th African - Nordic Foreign Ministers Meeting in November, 2019 - Dar es Salaam

## FROM THE CHIEF EDITOR

Dear esteemed stakeholders and readers of the Council’s Newsletter.

I greet you all. It’s my hope that the year 2019 has brought so many positives to the pharmacy sector and we look forward to more successes in 2020.

Once again, I bring to you another edition of our Newsletter---the fourth issue---which contains several topical issues of the sector, most of them featured in the year 2019.

While some are educative, others are informative and entertaining as well. This edition comprises of articles about issues in the pharmacy sector ranging from national to regional level.

Some of them shed light on how the pharmacy sector plays a role in fight against Non-communicable diseases and misuse or overuse of antibiotics.

Experts and stakeholders of the sector have shared their experiences and expertise in the articles.

I appreciate the good job done by all who devoted their time and energy in preparing this Newsletter and those who contributed their articles or opinion pieces for publication.

Enjoy the reading and I wish you prosperous New Year 2020.



**Elizabeth Shekalaghe**  
Chief Editor

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# Pharmacy Council Calls for Experience Sharing Among Pharmacists in SADC

By Anna Temu



*Pharmacy Council Secretariat in a group photo during the Joint Meeting of SADC Ministers of Health and Ministers Responsible for HIV and AIDS held in Dar es Salaam from 04 – 08 November, 2019.*

“Exchanging of experiences and skills among pharmacists in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is essential for effectiveness of the sector in the bloc”.

The Council gave these remarks during a meeting of SADC senior officials responsible for health and HIV/AIDS held from 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 in Dar-Es-Salaam.

When speaking on the sidelines of the meeting, the Council’s Registrar Pharmacist Elizabeth Shekalaghe explained that it was common for such professionals in East African Community (EAC) to come together and share their experiences.

“I think that pharmacists in SADC could emulate such practices for betterment of the sector in the region,” she said.

On other hand, the Pharmacy Council calls for harmonization of standards governing pharmacy professionals in the SADC region to enhance movement of labour in the regional bloc.

This means that once a pharmacist is registered in one of the Member States she or he can work in any of those countries.

The Council participated in the recent SADC senior officials meeting in order to learn challenges that other SADC member states face in the sector industry so that it turns them into opportunities.

The Council further participated on the Joint Meeting of Ministers of Health and Ministers responsible for HIV and AIDS from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) held on the 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 in Dar es Salaam. The Joint meeting was officiated by the Vice President of United Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan and was attended by 14 SADC member states with the theme SADC Cooperation is a major pillar to sustainable health development and the fight against HIV and AIDS.

# “Non-Communicable Diseases” Avoidable Financial Burden

By Annette Ezekiel

Like in other countries, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) cause financial burden to the government as it spends billions of money on treating patients suffering from such diseases.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that many countries spend over 50 billion in treating their people suffering from non-communicable diseases and it warns that countries may lose up to 7 trillion by 2025 unless measures are taken.

**“the Council emphasized on importance of people doing physical exercises to prevent themselves from getting NCDs”**

Again, it estimates that deaths from NCDs in the African region will increase by 27 percent by the year 2030, which is 28 million additional deaths.

In its 2016 report, the WHO says in Tanzania deaths related to NCDs account for 33 per cent of all deaths.

In the wake of this, the country organized annual week-long free testing for non-communicable diseases and public education.

This year, Dodoma city hosted the national activities to mark the week at Jamhuri Stadium between 9th and 14th November 2019 and Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa graced the week alongside Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Hon. Ummu Mwalimu.



Pharmacy Council had its pavilion at the stadium at which it disseminated education to the public over NCDs preventions. Like other institutions participated, the Council emphasized on importance of people doing physical exercises to prevent themselves from getting NCDs.

The Council believes that doing physical exercises would largely rescue Tanzanians from unnecessary consumption of medicines due to the diseases.

As mandated to promote rational use of medicines in the country, the Council managed to educate over 100 people who visited its pavilion during the week in Dodoma.

The Council had a special written message to the public saying: “In reducing unnecessary consumption of medicines, I will take care of my health by doing regular physical exercises to protect myself from non-communicable diseases.”

Apart from low physical activity, other main factors for NCDs include smoking, alcohol intake and unhealthy diet.

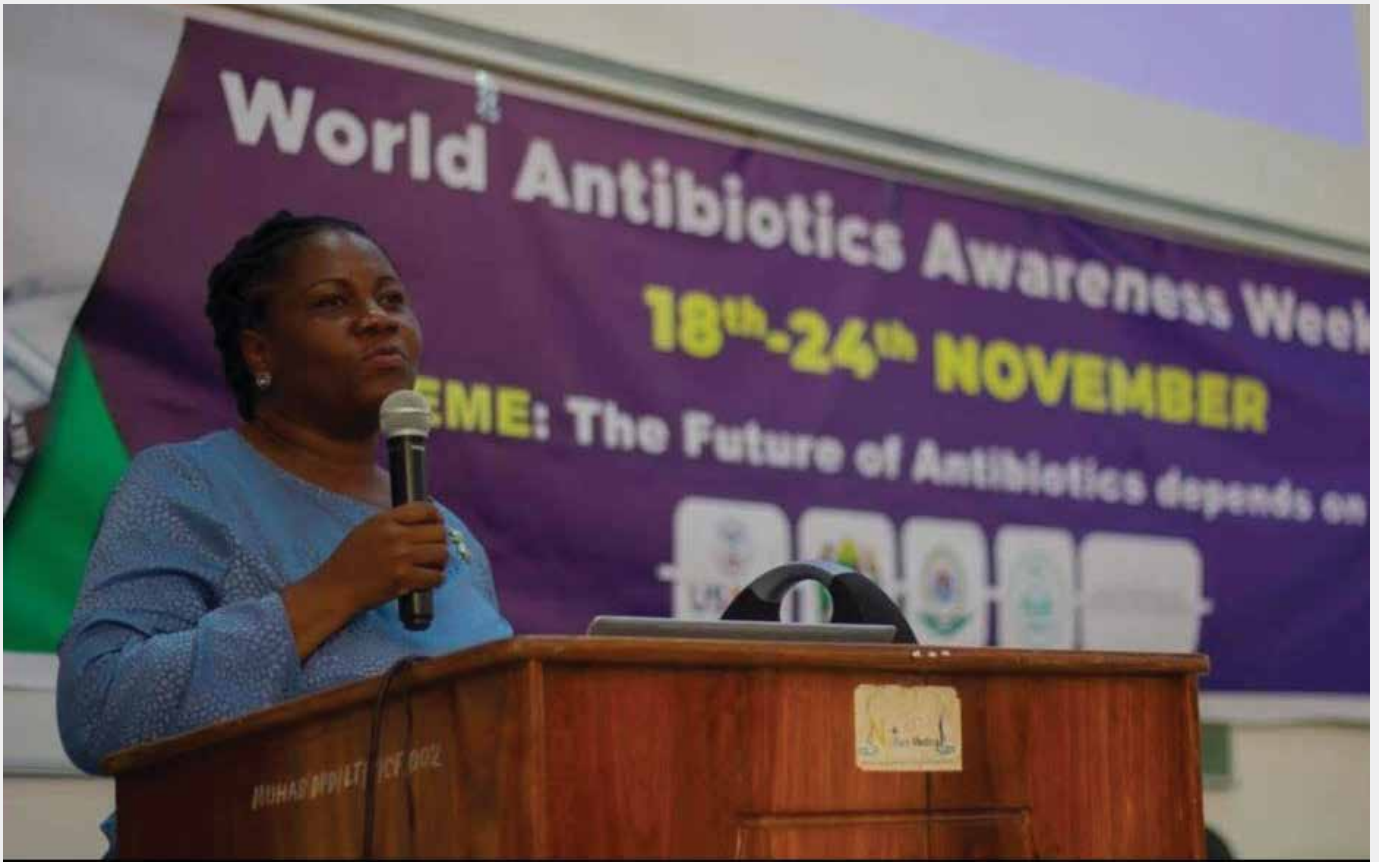


Pharmacist Arafa Nshau educating the public on roles of Pharmacy Council and measures to prevent NCDs during the launch of National Plan on Prevention and Combating NCDs held in Dodoma at Jamhuri grounds in November, 2019.



# Pharmacy Council Insists on Education During World Antibiotic Awareness Week

By Annette Ezekiel



*The Council's Registrar, pharmacist Elizabeth Shekalaghe addressing issues on awareness over misuse of antibiotics to pharmacy students who conducted a forum on 27th November, 2019 to mark the end of World Antibiotic Awareness Week held at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) in Dar es Salaam.*

"An informed person makes an informed decision", the phrase simply tells that a person is likely to make right decision if he is aware of pros and cons of what would be the consequences of his actions.

Upon this fact, the Pharmacy Council opted to use the World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW) which is marked from 18<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> November of every year as platform to inform and provide awareness education to the public on problems of antibiotic misuse.

In pharmacy sector, the issue of knowledge vis-à-vis consumption of medicines is interconnected. Consuming drugs without doctor's prescription is dangerous to health since doctors are entrusted prescribers to recommend right medicines for particular illness.

***'Avoid buying antibiotics without doctor's prescription.'***

Tanzania has regulations that guide uses of medicines; the regulations denounce arbitrary use of medicines and guide pharmacists in provision of drugs to patients. Though regulations and laws are in place, misuse or overuse of antibiotics remains a big challenge and results into antimicrobial resistance, which is a global problem.

Antimicrobial resistance is the ability of a microbe to resist the effects of medication that once could successfully treat the microbe. The term antibiotic resistance applies only to bacteria becoming resistant to antibiotics.

The Council's Registrar, Pharmacist Elizabeth Shekalaghe took the message to the pharmacy students at the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) who conducted a

forum on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to mark the end of the WAAW. The main message during the week was: ‘Avoid buying antibiotics without doctor’s prescription.’

The Registrar underscored that arbitrary use of antibiotics leads to antimicrobial resistance and increases treatment costs.

Students of the MUHAS conducted the forum recently to discuss the issue of antimicrobial resistance and how they (future pharmacists) would play a role to the problem.

As guest of honour at the forum held in Dar-Es-Salaam, the Registrar told the students to be ambassadors of spreading awareness over misuse of antibiotics.

“Every one of you should be a watchdog to control arbitrary use of antibiotics...you have

to educate the public in regular basis. Let’s make the issue of antimicrobial resistance a permanent agenda” she said.

Ms. Shekalaghe called upon proper use of antibiotics, noting that the important thing was to educate people so that they understand the issue apart from having the laws and regulations.

President of the Pharmacy students association (TAPSA), Castory Munishi, said, since the problem of antimicrobial resistance is still big, pharmacy students should also join efforts to address.

“Being pharmacy students we are worried that what if when we graduate and go to work in a situation which drugs don’t yield results to patients,” he said, adding: “So we are curious to learn on what to do to address the problem.”



## Approved locations for establishment of Accredited Drug Dispensing Outlets (ADDO) identified By Arapha Nshau

One hundred eighty two (182) Streets were approved for the establishment of Accredited Drug Dispensing Outlets (ADDO) in Dodoma City following Re-mapping activity conducted in November, 2019. In those streets, Ninety one percent (91%) of the drug outlets are expected to be accredited among 312 premises inspected.

Re – mapping and review of the implementation of ADDO in Dodoma City was done due to the quick growth of the City which made the areas previously identified suitable for ADDO establishment being accessible to health services including availability of pharmacies.

Before physical visits to map distribution of drug outlets in the City, consultative meeting was conducted with City Council officials, TMDA and drug outlets association leadership to see how well the activity will be implemented.

**The Accredited Drug Dispensing Outlets have been established in Tanzania to improve access to quality assured essential medicines at affordable prices to rural, peri-urban and underserved communities**



It is in the expectation of the Council that mapping will lead to the expansion of pharmaceutical services provision in the city through establishment of new premises particularly in areas that previously did not have, alleviation of illegally mushroomed premises from areas that are not authorized for ADDO establishment, enhanced efforts on fighting against the spread of antimicrobial resistance to the communities caused by inappropriate dispensation of medicines due to non- adherence to regulations.

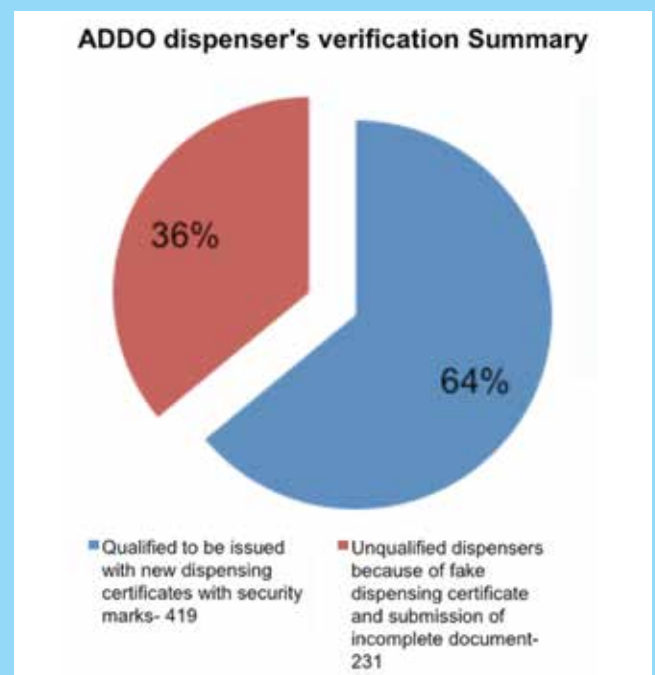
## Only Sixty Four Percent of ADDO Dispensers in Shinyanga and Simiyu Regions are Qualified

By Lucia Mgaya

Only sixty four percent (64%) of ADDO dispensers in Shinyanga and Simiyu regions are qualified, this has been revealed following a verification exercise conducted by the Pharmacy Council in all District Councils of the two regions.

Speaking to the Pharmacy News, the Head of Inspection at Pharmacy Council Mr. Nelson Faustine said that, The Pharmacy Council conducted verification of ADDO dispensers in all District Councils of Shinyanga and Simiyu Regions through Pharmacy Council Management and Information System (PCMIS) which saves as reservoir of information. The verification took place between 28th October and 04th November, 2019 which involved scrutinization of various documents to assess the authenticity of the dispenser's information in the database.

Mr. Faustine further said the aim of the activity was to curb the challenges of unqualified ADDO dispenser's, all qualified ADDO dispensers have been issued with new ADDO dispensing certificates with security features.





# Innovation and Use of data ideal model in improvement of Health Commodities Supply Chain in Tanzania

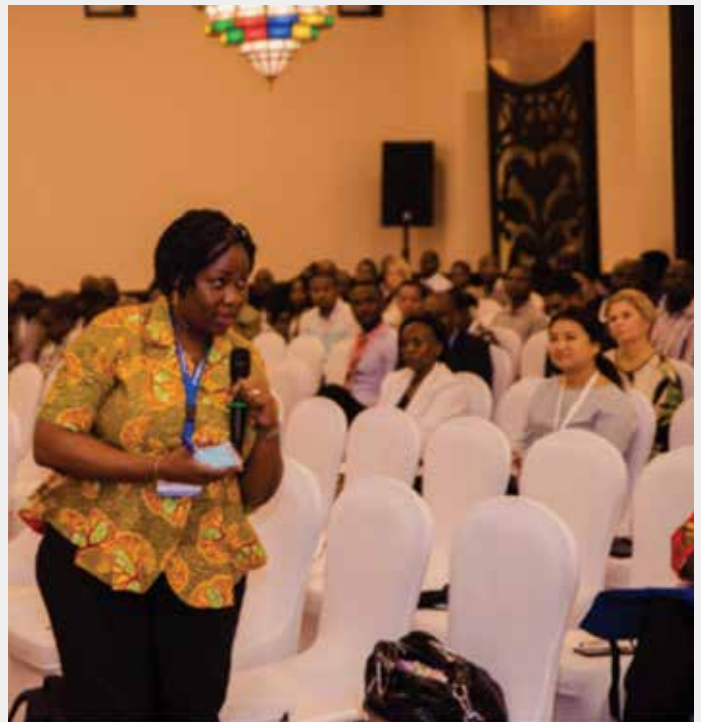
By Nelson Faustine

Speaking to the audience at the Tanzania Health Summit on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 at Serena Hotel in Dar-Es-salaam, Pharmacy Council Registrar Elizabeth Shekalaghe urged key players involved in health commodities supply chain to be innovative and to use data to improve their performance.

The aim of the summit was to provide an opportunity for various key players to convene and share lessons learned, success, challenges and best practices to improve health commodities supply chain in Tanzania.

In addition to this, the summit served as a platform to positively influence practices and behaviors among government health commodities supply chain actors and stakeholders.

More than 200 key players in health commodities supply chain attended the summit. The summit further served as Continuous Professional Development opportunity for pharmaceutical personnel.



*Pharmacy Council Registrar Ms. Elizabeth Shekalaghe speaking to key players in Health Commodities Supply Chain at Serena Hotel in Dar es salaam*

## Hippocratic Oath during White Coat Ceremony

By Rashid Kirua

On 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2019 the Pharmacy Council successfully participated in 'White Coat Ceremony' conducted at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS).

**[The White Coat Ceremony** is a meaningful tradition in which the Pharmacy School welcomes first-year students as an entry into the Pharmacy Profession.

During the ceremony, a white coat is placed on each student's shoulders after taking of Hippocratic Oath which commanded by Pharmacy Council.



*First year Pharmacy students wearing their white coats after taking the Hippocratic Oath during the White Coat ceremony.*

In this academic year, MUHAS enrolled 75 students in Bachelor of Pharmacy





# Accountability, Transparency and Productivity Emerged As Crucial Concepts for Good Governance

By Nelson Faustine



*Deputy Permanent Secretary (Health) Dr. Dorothy Gwajima emphasizing on issues related to accountability and transparency during mentorship session in Dodoma*

President Office Regional and Local Government (PORALG) organized a two days mentorship program to 26 regional pharmacists, a session which was held at Dodoma on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and inaugurated by Deputy Permanent Secretary (Health) Dr. Dorothy Gwajima.

Accountability, transparency and productivity have emerged as crucial principles as part of the broader opening of the door to efficiency in health services delivery. Director of Health, Social Welfare and Nutritional Services Dr. Ntuli Kapologwe, affirms regional pharmacists to improve their performance in order to cope with current government priorities in provision of health services.

“Public sector accountability, transparency and productivity emerged as crucial concepts in the effort to reduce opportunities for corruption and strengthen internal and external monitoring mechanisms and hence good governance” Said Dr. Gwajima.

In the mid of the exercise, the Registrar of Pharmacy Council presented functions of Pharmacy Council delegated to the Regional and Local Government Authorities which focused on major areas including the administrative level of ADDO Program and the general practice whereby a brief summary of audits inspection and operations conducted in their respective areas were presented of which all observed anomalies and necessary recommendations were deliberated.

# More Pharmacies and Pharmacy Professionals registered

By Timotheo Samwel

The Pharmacy Council has registered 58 new pharmacies. Among these, 15 premises are owned by Pharmaceutical personnel, these are:

a. Pharmacist Kelvin Nkungu	Ujirani Mwema Pharmacy
b. Pharmacist Zuberi H. Abdallah	Chakama Pharmacy
c. Pharmacist Atuganile Mtawa	Geovan Pharmacy Dar es Salaam
d. Pharmacist Edward Righton	Rahel Pharmacy
e. Pharmacist Regina Joseph	Rejoice Health Pharmacy Dodoma
f. Pharmacist Amon M. Tinkasimile	Net Pharmacy - Karagwe
g. Pharmacist Viraj Kaushik Mehta	NV Pharmaceutical Ltd - Makongolosi
h. Pharmacist Mehboob G.M.J Pira	International Pharmacy
i. Pharmacist Brown L. Mwakalonge	Chunya Pharmacy
j. Pharmacist Yussuf Husein	Miami Pharmacy
k. Pharmacist Lugano Mwankemwa	Lugano Pharmacy
l. Pharmacist Ngoya Iddi Salim Kaoneka	Sunrise Pharmacy - Mloganzila
m. Pharmacist Mringo Ismail Hamis	Uluguru Pharmaceuticals Co. Ltd
n. Pharm. Tech Bonaventure J. Mbagi	BR Pharmacy
o. Pharm. Tech Deograsia Mbeyela	DM Pharmacy - Njombe

In another event the Council during its 47<sup>th</sup> Meeting has fully registered 104 new pharmacists, 136 pharmaceutical technicians and 7 pharmaceutical assistants after passing the pre-registration and professional examinations and met all the requirements. Pharmacists will be awarded their certificates and license to practice during the induction course which will be held on January, 2020.

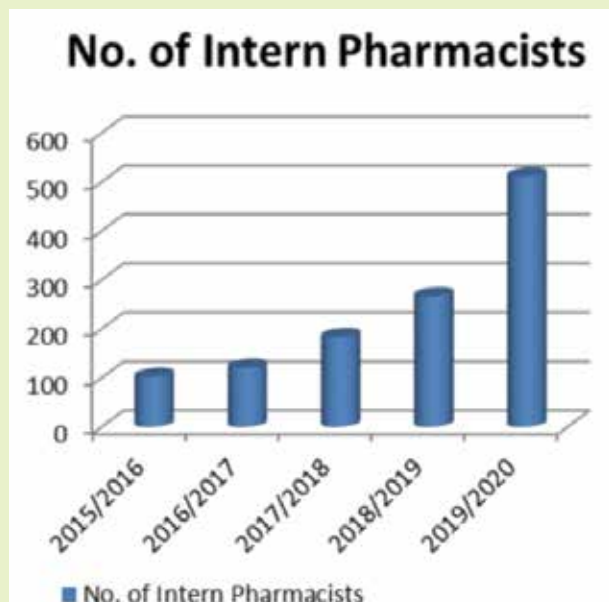
## The Number of Provisionally Registered Intern Pharmacists accelerates rapidly annually

By Timotheo Samwel

A total of 512 bachelor of pharmacy graduates have been provisionally registered as intern pharmacists in 2019/2020 and allocated in 44 approved intern centers after fulfilling the requirements and conditions set as per Section 18 of the Pharmacy Act, Cap. 311.

The number of provisionally registered intern pharmacists has increased tremendously since 2015/2016 as shown in the table below. The increase in number of intern pharmacists is due to increase to four (4) in number of approved universities offering bachelor of pharmacy in Tanzania also the number of students admitted per intake per university has been increasing gradually. This will amplify the number of full registered pharmacist year after year to serve the public

The trend of provisionally registered intern pharmacists per year



The number of provisionally registered intern pharmacists per university for the year 2019/2020





# Update Your Registration Status Electronically

By Timotheo Samwel

An electronic system of updating registration status for pharmaceutical personnel has been put in place to facilitate pending information to the Pharmacy Council on retaining names in the register, roll and list.

## Procedure for creating personal account and updating your information:

Open the link <http://196.45.42.57/pcmis.data/view/modules/registration/pharmacist-signup.php> and follow the instructions by entering your Personal Identification Number (PIN)

These procedures are applicable to full registered pharmacists, enrolled pharmaceutical technicians and enlisted pharmaceutical assistants.

As per Section 22, 26 and 30 of the Pharmacy Act Cap. 311 you are reminded to update your registration status for 2020 before 31st December, 2019. Furnish your information electronically after creating your personal account which is linked with the Pharmacy Council Management Information System (PCMIS) through <http://196.45.42.57/pcmis.data/view/modules/registration/pharmacist-signup.php> and shall be accompanied with the prescribed fee. Delays for payment shall include a penalty of 25%.

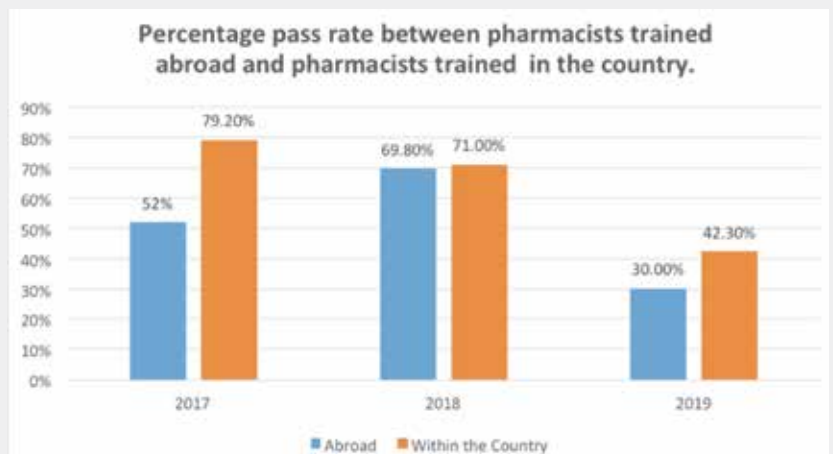
## Pre Registration and Professional Examinations Results

By Emily Mwakibolwa

Six hundred and three (603) candidates sat for the pre-registration examinations, among which 248 (41.13%) passed and 348 (58.87%) failed in one or more examinations. Out of these results 261 intern pharmacists sat for the examinations and 104 (40.15%) passed all three (3) examinations and 155 (59.15%) failed in one or more examinations.

The Council conducted pre-registration examinations for intern pharmacists and professional examinations for pharmaceutical technicians and assistants on 16th – 17th October 2019 in five centers, Mbeya, Dar-es-Salaam, Mwanza, Moshi and Dodoma.

In these results, 30% of intern pharmacists studied abroad and passed the examinations compared to 42.3% of intern pharmacists who studied in the country which makes the difference of 12.3%. However, in 2017 the differential pass rate for pharmacists who studied in the country compared to those who studied in abroad was 27.2% and it was the lowest in 2018 which was 1.2%.



Intern pharmacists during conduction of Pre-registration and Professional examinations in October, 2019.

# INTERNS'

My name is Alicia Wilson Kahumuza. I am 25 years old, I was born in Kagera region and holds a Bachelor degree from St John's University in Dodoma, Tanzania.

Having done my internship at the Pharmacy Council, it has sharpened my professional skills and understands better about my profession in terms of how far it has come and its future.

I have also understood challenges facing the pharmacy professionals and I have been motivated to come up with different practical ideas and thoughts that would help in solving some of the challenges.

As a youth, I believe that aspiring to achieve excellence requires constant, regular, disciplined and committed hard work. Above all, good conduct and an inner strong force and energy to accomplish can get anyone to where they think is impossible.

It is my hope that I will be able to apply the knowledge and experience I have attained from the Council and with my passion for pharmacy profession will dedicate my energy and skills to look for solution to current challenges and turn some of the challenges into opportunities.



I have completed my bachelor degree in pharmacy at Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences (CUHAS) - Mwanza, Tanzania and I am among the interns who have just finished internship at the Pharmacy Council.

I believe the future of pharmacy sector in Tanzania lies upon young generation and this has to go hand in hand with advancement in technology worldwide.

Therefore, I look forward to contribute in improving rational use of medicine through **FAMASI JAMII**, an organization that educates the community on proper use of medicine and other health matters via internet and social media platforms as well as community outreach programs.

During my internship at the Council, I have learnt how the Council operates on a very credible standard. I practiced a lot and that has helped me improve my skills particularly on customer service and team work. In the next five years I see myself as a professional pharmacist and one of pioneers in providing wide range of pharmaceutical services in the country.



# OPINIONS



*Beatrice Godwin*

Doing internship at the Pharmacy council has been an eye opening experience. Through it I have developed a deep passion for the pharmacy profession. I have seen many areas in which a pharmacist can play a role from clinical practice all the way to regulation making.

This experience has taught me the importance of relationships with co-workers as well as customers and has helped me build my self-confidence and creativity enormously. I consider myself very privileged to have had this opportunity.

I feel honoured to be part of Pharmacy Council team and I admit that the opportunity has exceeded my expectation.

I am lucky that I got a unique opportunity to work with administration department staff and others. This has helped me improve my skills and trained me to work in a team. Under this teamwork spirit, I have learnt how to communicate well with different people in the workplace.

Improved communication skills have added my ability to solve problems with analytical approach.

I can therefore confidently state that I have professionally grown because of the mentorship I got during my time as an intern.



*Georgina Kabigumila*

I hold a bachelor degree of pharmacy and I have completed my internship at the Pharmacy Council of Tanzania.

During my internship, I have learnt from the Secretariat, among other things, the desire to accomplish every task at highest standards possible.

I find this as a very important aspect which every pharmaceutical personnel should embrace to provide quality services to the customers.

One of my objectives is to become an influential professional who contributes to improving the quality of pharmacy education in Tanzania by building capacity to institutions and/or governmental regulatory bodies because these are the source of professionalism and pharmaceutical experts.



*Tanya Y. Mafuru*

# INTERNS'



*Kaneza Ngendabanka*

Interning for one year at Pharmacy Council has connected me to a large network of professional pharmacists and stakeholders.

I came to realize that a role of a pharmacist goes far beyond clinical practices and this made me feel proud of my profession.

My One year internship programme at the Council not only made an impact to my profession but also to my personal life. I am now aware of impact of my profession to the public as well as responsibilities of the Council as regulatory body.

The internship has sharpened my skills on how to handle customers and made me know importance of team work.

As an intern, I appreciate the good leadership of the Registrar and heads of departments. They have moulded me to be the person I am today.

I will always be grateful for interning at Pharmacy Council.

However, finishing the internship is not the end but rather the beginning of my career journey. I am looking forward to making major impact in the future when applying my professional skills.

May God bless Pharmacy Council, Pharmacy Profession and May God bless Tanzania.

I admit that working with the Pharmacy Council as an intern pays off. I real appreciate the Council for what I have benefited during the time I did my internship.

Skills that I have acquired have improved my ability to communicate effectively with other health professionals.

I now understand that serving the community needs commitment, trust and respect, something which has implanted in me a passion to become a better pharmacist.



*Leah Zomba*



# OPINIONS

I started my internship at the Pharmacy Council on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018 and completed on 31<sup>st</sup> October this year.

I took this opportunity to learn many new things, particularly on serving people and how to communicate with fellow staff at workplace.

In my professional journey, I aim at becoming the best consultant in the future providing best services to the people.



*Leonard Richard Katungi*



*Winifrida Moremi Mwigubari*

During my internship of One year from 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2019 I had an opportunity to learn a number of lessons, highly but not limited to professional and soft skills like punctuality, communication and networking.

Participating in drafting and regulation review as one of learnt lessons has inspired me to become a drug policy maker.

I plan to work in the pharmacy sector and I expect to bring impact in the future.

My first inclination to become a pharmacist rose at the end of high school. Naturally, I am a kind of person who cares for other's wellbeing, a quality which fits in pharmacy profession.

Though I have not yet gained enough experience, I have learned that health professions, generally, are dedicated to this same mission.

My one-year internship at the Council has been interesting and challenging as well. I have learned how to take care of others' health and gained more knowledge to interpret various pharmacy regulations.

I have also learnt how to look at challenges facing the sector with positive eye and more importantly to possess the means of optimizing my potentials.

In the next five years I see myself not just a pharmacist but also the one capable of bringing results in the sector.

I am happily that I have chosen to pursue a career that will provide me satisfaction in my life.



*Muzjuma Zedi*

# JAMII MEDICAL AWARENESS (JMA)

Jamii Medical Awareness (JMA) is a fully registered NGO, founded by Medical and Pharmaceutical Students from Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) with the main objective of addressing health problems in the community through health education and medical awareness. Currently JMA has majored in fighting the emergence and spread of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in Tanzania and beyond the borders by creating a society with proper awareness on Antimicrobial resistance.

As a means of supporting efforts waged to curb Antimicrobial resistance which is a global health threat but also to create a better healthy community, JMA was established with the vision to create a health society that is free from morbidity, mortality and unnecessary increased costs of treatment caused by disease outbreaks due to lack of health education and awareness. All these can be archived through JMA's mission of using campaigns, medical camps and arts to reach out Tanzanian community providing health and medical education, services and awareness on antimicrobial resistance.

Antimicrobial resistance means the tendency of disease-causing microorganisms (i.e. Bacteria, Fungi, Viruses and Parasites) to change in a way that renders the drugs ineffective and stop working against them. Antimicrobial resistance is global health threat that tries to send us back to old era when we were unable to easily treat infections.



According to World Health Organization (WHO), it is estimated that about 700,000 people are dying each year as result of antimicrobial resistance and it is projected that failure to address the issue of antimicrobial resistance could result to 10 Million deaths annually by 2050 and costing about 66 trillion Euros. The driving forces for antimicrobial resistance are mainly improper and misuse of antimicrobials both in human and animals. Majority of people lack awareness on proper use of these drugs hence JMA came up with TABASAMU LA TIBA SAHIHI Campaign. The project main purpose is to educate the community on proper use of antibiotics and increase awareness on antimicrobial resistance. This project has been running since November 2018 to date.

JMA utilizes variety of approaches to deliver education and raise awareness on antimicrobial resistance to the community. Jamii Medical Awareness conducts physical outreaches in the community and schools to raise awareness on AMR. JMA also utilizes the work of art and creates 3D animations, songs, Videos and drama so as to facilitate easy understanding of antimicrobial resistance even by layman and through the raise of internet use in the community, all the educative contents created by JMA are disseminated through the social media platforms mainly YouTube, Instagram and Twitter to reach the community.

JMA further disseminates AMR education via Main stream media including Radio and Televisions, for instance JMA has been having programs at Clouds Media since July 2019 and through these sessions, JMA has managed to reach so many people in the county with AMR education as the Clouds FM has a national wide coverage. But also we have got to carry out AMR awareness sessions with other more Media houses with national and regional coverage. JMA also has been utilising scientific conferences and workshops to spread the awareness on proper use of antibiotics and AMR.

As far as AMR is the concerned and being a great health threat, the future of JMA is to create a society with awareness on AMR, initiate AMR surveillance and various researches around the community, collaborating with national and global partners and stakeholders in addressing AMR.



# Fighting Anti-Microbial Resistance in Tanzania – Pharmacy Students Have Taken the Lead

By Esther Kisanga – TAPSA Tanzania

The misuse of antibiotics is putting us all at risk. Awareness of antimicrobial resistance, while acknowledged as important, remains low in Tanzania. As the right to health includes the right of access to information, public health awareness campaigns can help bring needed information to neglected communities as a means of addressing the information gap.

Tanzania Pharmaceutical Students' Association (TAPSA) launched the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of its third round of Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Campaigns on 9th September 2019 as a continuation of its 5-year plan that started in 2017. The campaign, titled TAPSA Antimicrobial Resistance Campaign (TARC), with the theme *Achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) while addressing Antimicrobial Resistance*, aims to raise awareness of antimicrobial resistance and the rational use of medication in all regions in Tanzania.

Antimicrobial resistance is the ability of microorganisms to stop an antimicrobial from working against it. Because of this, it threatens the effective prevention and treatment of an ever-increasing range of infections caused by microorganisms, accounting for an estimated 700,000 deaths a year, a figure that could increase to 10 million deaths annually if no action is taken according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The campaign was launched at TAPSA headquarters in Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences through a workshop designed for regional coordinators and campaign ambassadors to familiarize them with the campaign objectives as well as equip them with skills and tools to assist them in campaign activities. The campaign was to be conducted through community outreach and media activities aiming at disseminating information on the antimicrobial resistance crisis through public presentations, mass media and social media.

Up until its fifth week, TARC has been actively conducted in 16 regions with over 180 events being conducted in different targets such as primary and secondary schools, pharmacies

and ADDOs, health centers and dispensaries as well as church gatherings, reaching an estimated number of 30,000 individuals with an average of 3 ambassadors attending each event. Television and radio interviews conducted as well as social media activity puts the estimated number of people reached at 5 million.

Differently from the previous years, the 2019 campaign includes a survey aimed at evaluating the impact of these campaigns.

*“The reason as to why TARC will be collecting data through the survey is to convince stakeholders, with evidence about the level of awareness of the community on AMR and hence why we need TARC and the likes,”* said Habibu Salimu, TARC Chairperson.

Over 1700 questionnaires have been filled by secondary school students who have been selected for evaluation. This number is halfway the targeted objective of 3000 questionnaires.

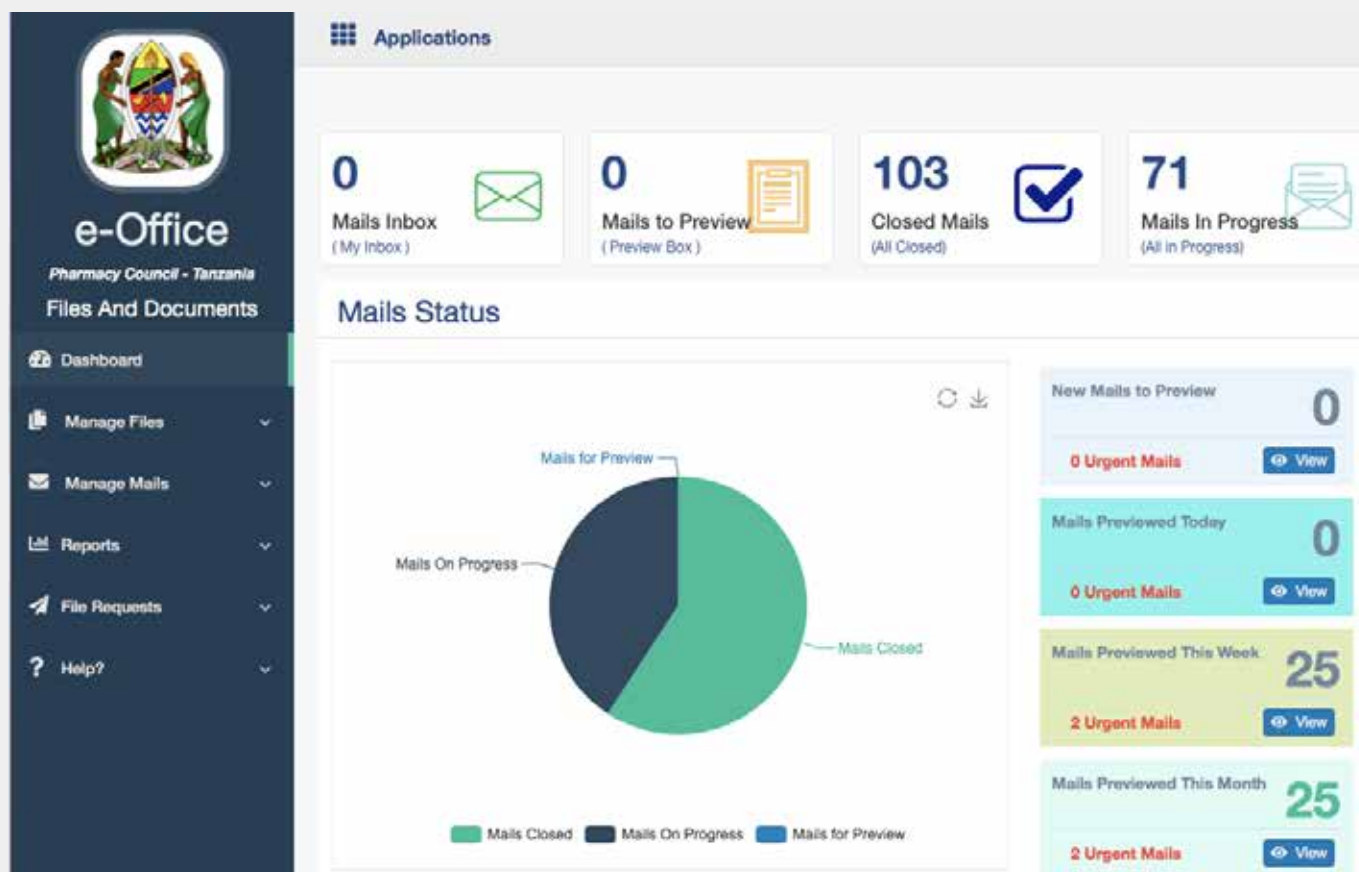
*“So far, the progress of our campaign is incredible,”* said Castory Munishi, TAPSA President, *“By participating in this campaign, we are building the reputation of our association as well as understanding the challenges of our society. As we are being molded to become professionals, our campaign is a great opportunity to prepare us to become great practitioners.”* He further added *“Young people can make great impact in their societies all they need is support and room to put their energy and creativity at work. This has been vividly seen by great TAPSA works.”*

TARC lies in line with the first strategic objective of Tanzania's National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance; to create awareness and understanding of antimicrobial resistance through effective information, education, and communication. The 1st phase of TARC will end on 1st November 2019.

*“The campaign has been a great experience for many of us,”* said Fortunatus Malisa, a TARC ambassador, *“It adds onto our holiday productivity while allowing us to nurture various talents and gain new skills.”*

# THE COUNCIL EMBARKS ON e-OFFICE OPERATIONS

By Alex Mkude



The world is changing towards application of more digital technologies to simplify and speed up work. Digital technologies have become replacers of paper-based works thus saves time and increases efficiency at work places.

From this fact, the government had introduced e-government system to encourage its institutions to utilize Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) in improving operations and serving the citizens.

The Council took on board the new system of e-Office on 11th October 2019 to streamline its operations and is now up and running. All staff of the council are comfortable with the system, with some admitting that it simplifies their work especially at Registry routines and keeps information integrity.

Speaking to Pharmacy News, the Records Management Assistant, Mr Mussa Cholobi narrated the many advantages and a few setbacks while using the e-Office system. “Magnificent amount of paper work and movement have reduced and follow-up is timely” he said. He further said “the system is secured, however, accessibility is limited within government network only”.

The deployed system is of gradual development since the current running version is e-Office version 4 and the Council expects more upgrades on the system in order to improve efficiency of the Council and simplify daily routines.

In future, the Council is expecting e-Office system to be integrated within another coming system which is Enterprise Resource Management System (ERMS) so as to initiate concurrent running of operations in a digital aspect.

# OBITUARY



**1979 – 2019**

With deep grief, we announce the death of Pharmacist Mwanaali Omari, who died on Sunday, December 29, 2019, at Mloganzila hospital in Dar es Salaam.

She was born on October 04, 1979 and graduated with Bachelor of Pharmacy degree from University of Dar es Salaam.

Mwanaali was a registered pharmacist with Reg. No. 0100839. She was working as pharmacist with Makurumla Health Centre before her death.

**MAY HER SOUL REST IN PEACE.**



**1948 – 2019**

With deep grief, we inform you of the death of Professor Sylvester L. B. Kajuna (71), Registered Pharmacist with Reg. no. 0100444, Associate Professor of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Medicine at the Hubert Kairuki Memorial University (HKMU) and School of Medicine at University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM). He left to his heavenly abode on Sunday 06th December, 2019 at Hubert Kairuki Memorial Hospital.

Prof. Kajuna graduated in 1976 with M.sc in Pharmacy from Semmelweis University of Medicine (Budapest) Hungary. He contributed to the field of pharmacy and medicine for more than 20 years as a Lecturer and Supervisor.

**MAY THE ALMIGHTY GOD GIVE REST AND PEACE TO HIS SOUL.**





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