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Newsletter April - June 2021

"A Pharmacist is beyond Filling Prescription"

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DR. GWAJIMA ON NURTURING PHARMACY PROFESSIONALS

By Anna Temu

The Pharmaceutical Society of Tanzania (PST) was established in accordance with the Societies Act Cap 337 and was registered on 30th January,1967 with registration No 5162. PST represents all pharmacy professionals including Pharmacists, Pharmaceutical Technicians and Pharmaceutical Assistants.

On 27th and 28th May, 2021, the society held its scientific conference and annual meeting with, among others, the intention of electing its top leadership including the President, the Vice President, the Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General and the Treasurer. The meeting was held under the slogan "Pharmacy Professionals: An important pillar in improving the availability of quality medicine in Tanzania".

The meeting was officially opened by the Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Hon. Dr. Dorothy Gwajima who was the guest of honour. In her speech, the Minister thanked the leadership of PST for inviting her to be the guest of honour and congratulated them for the massive turn out of the pharmacy professionals. Dr. Gwajima acceded to the slogan of the meeting and intimated to them that the Government had set aside TZS 121.3 billion to improve on the supply chain and distribution of medicine, medical devices and other allied supplies to all Tanzanians.

However, Dr. Gwajima noted that in addition to her congratulatory message and the news of the amount set aside by the Government, she was concerned about the information she has heard on the loss or theft of medicines, medical devices and other allied medical supplies from some of the health centres. She said she was forced to remind them of such breach of ethics and requested them to evaluate themselves as professionals. As an emphasis, the Minister revisited the audit report of the regional referral hospitals and



those municipal councils carried out during the year 2021 and directed them to go through the report and use it as mirror to reflect on their performance and make changes where need be.

"I require the leadership of PST to be on the forefront in rebuking the misdeeds and misconduct of some of its members and take part to revive the Medicine and Therapeutic Committees and ensure that they are effectively used by professionals at health centres and hospitals" the Minister said. She insisted on the use of Standard Treatment Guidelines and the National Essential Medicines List (STG/NEMLT); noting that it should go hand in hand with the use of prescriptions and directed the responsible authorities, Chief Pharmacist and the Pharmacy Council to ensure its immediate implementation.

The Minister also urged the pharmacy professionals through PST to unite and establish pharmaceutical industries and take lead in pharmaceutics production and other allied products in order to assist the the Government in the availability of medicine in the country. In her concluding remarks, she insisted the audience to come up with viable recommendations which would be considered by the Government for implementation.



Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Hon. Dr. Dorothy Gwajima with the Pharmacy Council Registrar, Pharmacist Elizabeth Shekalaghe during a visit to the Pharmacy Council Pavilion during the Pharmaceutical Society of Tanzania (PST) scientific conference and annual meeting held in Dar es Salaam Region at the National Museum.



Pharmacy professionals in a cheerful mood when welcoming Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Hon. Dr. Dorothy Gwajima during the Pharmaceutical Society of Tanzania (PST) scientific conference and annual meeting held in Dar es Salaam Region at the National Museum.



Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Hon. Dr. Dorothy Gwajima in a group photo with the Pharmacy professionals.

PHARMACY COUNCIL IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE.

By Annette Ezekiel

"Tuelimishane Juu ya tatizo la Dawa za kulevya, kuokoa maisha"

The Pharmacy Council teamed up with The Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) and other stakeholders to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse aimed at raising public awareness and encouraging the public to participate in the fight against drug abuse and drug trafficking.

The national commemorations were held at Nyerere square in Dodoma from 24th June to 26th June 2021, where the Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Hon. Anthony Mtaka graced the inauguration ceremony.

The theme of this years commemorations was "Tuelimishane Juu ya tatizo la Dawa za kulevya, kuokoa maisha". The theme aims at educating and encouraging the public to refrain from being involved in the trafficking or use of illicit drugs.

The Council as a stakeholder and regulator of the pharmacy profession in collaboration with the Department of Pharmacy at Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) participated and provided public education on rational use of medicines including emphasising to the public to fight against the use and illicit purchase of drugs in pharmacies without medical prescriptions.

The commemorations included exhibition of various drug control activities conducted by Government institutions, Civil Society Organizations and individuals.

On behalf of the Prime Minister, Hon. Kassim Majaliwa, the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Hon. George Simbachawene winded the celebrations by visiting various stalls in the stadium including the Pharmacy Council exhibition booth where he was briefed on the functions, responsibilities and technological advancement achieved by the Council.



The Minister of State for Home Affairs, Hon. George Simbachawene visited various stalls in the stadium including the Pharmacy Council exhibition booth, where he was briefed on the functions, responsibilities and technological advancement achieved by the Council by Head of Pharmacy Practice, Pharmacist Arapha Nshau.



The Pharmacy Council in collaboration with the Department of Pharmacy at Muhimbili National Hospital providing public education on rational use of medicines.



The Pharmacy Council Registrar Pharmacist Elizabeth Shekalaghe visited the stalls of various government institutions including Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA), Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA), Ant Drugs Unit (ADU) and the Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) who participated in the International Day against Drug Abuse to see the services provided.

OBSERVE THE CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT – REGISTRAR

By Anna Temu

At its two day scientific conference and annual meeting held from 27th to 28th May, 2021, members of the pharmaceutical fraternity were urged to observe the code of ethics and professional conduct relating to the scope of practice and conduct of pharmacists, pharmaceutical technicians and pharmaceutical assistants in discharging their responsibilities and duties to the public at large.

PHARMACY COUNCIL

Presenting a paper on the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct pharmaceutical providing services, the Registrar of Pharmacy Council, Pharmacist Elizabeth Shekalaghe pointed out that the Pharmacy Council was established under section 3 of the Pharmacy Act cap 311 to regulate the pharmacy profession and through business the enforcement of the Act., its attendant regulations and any directives which may be given from time to time.

The Registrar explained very clearly the principles of ethical conduct within the pharmacy profession based on the need to be responsible and accountable, to be compliant to the relevant laws and to needs of the

community it serves; most important to act with integrity, honesty, trustworthy and transparency.

She further identified some of the activities which clearly constitute a breach of code of ethics and professional conduct. These include dealing with pharmaceuticals and allied products which have not been registered by TMDA, acting irresponsibly at one's place of work which may lead to loss of medicines through bad handling, fraud or outright theft. In the process other public properties may be damaged and lost as well.

The Registrar cautioned the participants that a breach of code professional of ethics and conduct may lead to loss of government resources, loss of respect and trust from the community which they serve. It may also result in endangering the health and safety of the productive workforce of the nation. "On a personal level, one may lose his/her credibility and integrity as a professional, he/she

credibility and integrity as a professional, he/she may be rejected by the community and at the very extreme, he/she may be subjected to legal and possibly court action", the registrar stressed.

She concluded by advising members of the pharmacy fraternity read and understand the Pharmacv Act. regulations and other directives which may be issued. Pharmacist Elizabeth urged them to work as a team and cooperate with each other, to seek solutions where there are disputes and generally to love and respect each other. In doing so, they would be able to restore the respect and confidence of the community the profession.



"Run for Purpose"

27th June 2021

Pharmacy Council Workers Supports Children with Scoliosis

By Annette Ezekiel

Pharmacy Council participated and Co-sponsored the half marathon organized on 27th June, 2021 by the Muhimbili

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Orthopedic Institute (MOI) with the goal to support 40 children with scoliosis.

The Marathon involved 1000 participants from various parts of Tanzania with the theme: "Run for Purpose", and was held at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) grounds.

The MOI Marathon was designed with an intention to raise funds to assist children with scoliosis who could not afford medical treatment and require immediate surgical operation.

as part of its corporate social responsibility. "Marathons promote unity, solidarity, harmony and also provides a platform to promote and showcase services provided by the Council, it's also one of the areas of refreshment while keeping people fit in the fight against non-communicable diseases" he said.



Certificate of participation and sponsorship awarded to Pharmacy Council.

Scoliosis is a sideways curvature of the spine that most often is diagnosed in adolescents. While scoliosis can occur in people with conditions such as cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy, the cause of most childhood scoliosis is unknown. Most cases of scoliosis are mild, but some curves worsen as children grow. Severe scoliosis can be disabling. An especially severe spinal curve.

The Official Guest of the MOI Marathon Hon. Dr. Tulia Ackson, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania, acknowledged and cheered up the management and all the team that came up with the idea of organizing this fundraising event to support children. She commended the concept of using sports to help people in need.



"I congratulate the winners of the races and call upon all sponsors, organizations and stakeholders who showed

up to sponsor MOI Marathon to continue with the good

spirit of supporting the less fortunate", Dr. Tulia stressed.

Marathon.

MOI Executive Director, Dr. Respecious Boniface said that scoliosis can be treated at MOI and urged parents to take their children from the age of three to seven to hospital earlier for better treatment results.

On his side, Hamis Salehe Mdindile, Human Resource Officer from Pharmacy Council underscored that the Pharmacy Council participated and co-sponsored the marathon.



The Pharmacy Council as one of the official race participants and sponsor.

PST COMMEMORATES NATIONAL PHARMACY WEEK

By Anna Temu

"Resilient teams: Working together with pharmacists to improve patient-centred care."

Pharmacy week celebrations 2021 were organized by Pharmaceutical Society of Tanzania (PST) in collaboration with other pharmacy profession stakeholders like Pharmacy Council of Tanzania (PC), Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA), manufacturers and importers of medicines and related items. This is the week for the pharmacy professionals in Tanzania to promote their roles and responsibilities in the healthcare sector hence increase visibility and awareness to the community.

The theme for this year's pharmacy week is "Resilient teams: Working together with pharmacists to improve patient-centred care."

Pharmacy week was The established in such a way that the week ends on 16th June of each year to commemorate the inaugural meeting of the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association held in 1969 that led to its formation. It is also the birth date of one of its founders and first President, the late Albert Howells, who chaired the inaugural meeting.



Pharmacy Professionals from Pharmaceutical Society of Tanzania (PST) promoting their roles and responsibilities in the healthcare to increase visibility and awareness to the community during one on one with Clouds 360.

The pharmacy week in Tanzania begins on 10th June and ends on 16th June and is usually packed with activities and programs, all geared at promoting, showcasing and bring closer to the society, the pharmacy expertise. Activities ranging from, but not limited to, medicine education, diseases education, exhibition of services and products, counseling and experience sharing among professionals.

This year, PST requested its members to celebrate the pharmacy week by showing vibrancy in all areas that they work. Besides, PST, through its members, made media tour to educate and answer public questions on issues to do with medicines. Pharmacist Mary Kisima and Pharmacist Tumaini Makole had interviews on Clouds TV, and Pharmacist Joel Ndegea interview was aired on Channel Ten.

The peak of the celebrations on 16th June, were held at Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) Dar es salaam and Bugando Medical Centre (BMC) Mwanza, where pharmacy professionals marched around the institutions before convening for speeches from leaders and guests of honor.

In Mwanza, PST leadership was represented by PST Vice President Pharmacist Mtani Njegere, and General Secretary Pharm Benson Katundu, while in Dar es Salaam, PST was represented by PST President Pharm Fadhili Hezekiah.

In his speech, PST President, commended the pharmacy professionals for a job well done in planning and executing pharmacy week activities. He thanked, Prof. Lawrence Mseru who was the guest of honor, for supporting the pharmacy department to the level it is now. Pharmacist Fadhili, commended a good job being done by all pharmacy teams at MNH, under the leadership of Pharmacist Dr. Deus Buma. The President further encouraged all pharmacy professionals to make sure they register and pay annual fees to be active members. He said, the strength of PST depends on members and their participation in all society matters. President also shared his intentions and that of his fellow leaders, to unite all pharmacy professionals in the country, insisting that, this way we can have one big voice for all profession issues.

PST President, reminded pharmacy professionals to always conduct their responsibilities in such a way, to always be ethical. He borrowed a quote, "No Ethics, No Pharmacy Business".

Pharmacy Council Tanzania News

MNH CELEBRATES NATIONAL PHARMACY WEEK

10-16/JUNI/2021

HOSPITALI YA TAIFA MUHIMBILI

KAULI MBIU:

TIMU MADHUBUTI: HUFANYA KAZI NA WAFAMASIA KUBORESHA

KARIBUNI WOTE KWA HUBUMA NA USHAURI.

WINN YA FAMASI (



"I applaud pharmacy professionals for the hard work and encourage them to continue promoting good pharmacy practice to protect public health". These are remarks from the Executive Director of MNH, Prof. Lawrence Museru who was the guest speaker during the discussions held at MNH Conference Hall to commemorate Pharmacy Week Celebrations on 16th June, 2021.

Each year the Council collaborates with various stakeholders in the country to celebrate National Pharmacy Week from June 10 to 16. This year the week was celebrated with the theme: Timu Madhubuti: Kufanya Kazi na Wafamasia Kuboresha Huduma kwa Wagonjwa.

Collaboratively, MNH and Pharmacy Council coordinated the participation and publicity through media coverage on the efforts made by pharmacists from MNH. Public education at the pavillion that was set up at the hospital and a walk for health promotion was also part of the programs conducted.

In addition Prof. Museru said that this day reminds us of the rational use medicines and acknowledged the pharmacist being the most important person in making sure that the medicines used at Muhimbili are safe and rationally dispensed.



Executive Director of MNH, Prof. Lawrence Museru addressing pharmacists who attended the discussions held at MNH Conference Hall to commemorate Pharmacy Week Celebrations on 16th June, 2021.



Director of Medicine, Dr. Hedwiga Swai, Head of Pharmacy Department, Pharmacist, Dr. Deus Buma, president of Pharmaceutical Society of Tanzania (PST), Pharmacist Fadhili Hezekiah and Pharmacists from Pharmacy Council and Muhimbili National Hospital on a health walk at the hospital grounds during the National Pharmacy Week Celebrations on 16th June, 2021.

Prof. Maseru also urged pharmacists not to stop at just giving medicines, but also to be at the forefront of advising institutions, hospitals and ministries on the availability, proper and rational use of medicines despite the challenges they face.

Prof. Maseru concluded by saying, he is grateful for the great contribution made by pharmacists in the country and being part of the success that Muhimbili hospital has achieved.

On his side, Head of MNH Pharmacy Department, Pharmacist, Dr. Deus Buma spoke on the wide scope pharmacists. "Pharmacists are in various fields, you will find them Ministries, Authorities, in research, pharmacies even in farms and are doing a great job of supporting the government and the community at large by ensuring they provide quality and safe pharmaceutical services".



Pharmaceutical professionals in attentive mood.

Pharmacy Council Tanzania News

PHARMACY COUNCIL & NESTLE NUTRITION

on Collaborative Partnership



Representative from Nestle East and South Africa Region, Mr. Nicholas Chang'a together with Registrar of Pharmacy Council, Pharmacist Elizabeth Shekalaghe and Head of Education Department Mr. Samuel Zakayo attended this partnership meeting and discussed a number of issues.

The **ICPN** Program was introduced to the meeting attendees by Nicholas Chang'a from Nestle, Highlighting on the program objectives, curriculum, Institutionthe partnering Thomas Jefferson University-Philadelphia, the mode of delivery, evaluation and certification to the participants.

He added that the program will be offered through mobile phone app, the participants will download the app and register by entering the provided unique access codes and learn the modules at their own pace. There will be one module (15minutes) per week for 20 weeks. Pharmacy Council Registrar,

Pharmacist Elizabeth Shekalaghe with the Representative from Nestle East and South Africa Region, Mr. Nicholas Chang'a during the collaborative partnership meeting.

"There are 60 participants approved in Tanzania, among them 10 slots have been reserved for the Council", Mr. Nicholas highlighted and shared the program flier and the Curriculum to the members of the meeting. The Registrar of Pharmacy Council, Pharmacist Elizabeth Shekalaghe recommended that

the shared program materials will be reviewed and the feedback will be shared at earliest.

She also encouraged nestle to take an advantage of the available and ongoing platforms such as the community programs and the Pharmacy Week planned to take place in June to share with the pharmacists such learning programs as the pharmaceutical practice is a very diverse and continuously evolving profession with multi-disciplinary approach in terms of service delivery. The Registrar advised Nestle to review the number of participants including those reserved for the Council as that is a low number compared to the overall requirements among pharmacists in Tanzania.

The Nestle Representative noted the advice and promised to revert back as such decision require the Company's internal discussion and alignment.

The Registrar finally handed Mr. Nicholas CODV of the а Newsletter that featured the CPD training conducted in collaboration with Nestle on 26th July 2019 at Protea Courtvard Hotel in Dar-Es-Salaam.

CURRICULUM REVIEW FOR PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCE PROGRAMME IS ON THE GO!

By Emmy mwakibolwa

In improving health services provision, The Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDGEC) through Pharmacy Council is in the process of reviewing curriculum for technician certificate and diploma course in Pharmaceutical Science.

The workshop took place on 7th to 18th May, 2021 in Morogoro Region and was officiated by Principal Pharmacist from Pharmacy Council.



Various stakeholders during Pharmaceutical Science Program Curriculum Review workshop that took place at Morogoro on May, 2021.

Mr. Godfrey Ngonela on behalf of Registrar of the Council and was attended by various stakeholders including pharmacy training institutions, pharmaceutical industries, regulatory authorities, medical stores department among others.

The main aim was to improve the existing training curriculum in order to make pharmacy training institutions produce adequately qualified Pharmaceutical Technicians and Assistants for improved health services provision. This activity started from 29th to 31st March, 2021 to date and will be going on until December, 2021. Speaking during the workshop, Pharmacy Council Registrar, Pharmacist Elizabeth Shekalaghe stressed participants to develop the curriculum which will enable pharmacy graduates to become competent enough to employ themselves especially in manufacturing herbal medicines, cosmetics and other pharmaceutical products.

The improvements of this curriculum is the key in development of human resource required in various health disciplines and is very important for sustainable health care services delivery and national advancement. Currently, with the ongoing globalization and increased competitiveness, it is important to use competent professionals to spearhead productivity in the health sector.



Group photo of the participants who attended the workshop.



"Uwajibikaji, Maslahi Bora, Huduma Fanisi za Dawa" *Kazi iendelee!* SIKU : Jumamoal TABEHE: 01 Mol. 2021

> Pharmacy Council Staff from the Council's Headquarters in Dodoma participated in a joint demonstration to commemorate May Day that held at the Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma

1st May 2021 WORKERS DAY

Pharmacy Council Workers Commemorates International Labour Day

By Annette Ezekiel

Pharmacy Council Staff joined other workers around the world in commemorating "May Day" also known as the International workers day on 1st May 2021.

The celebrations were held nationally in Mwanza where the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Her excellence Samia Suluhu Hassan was the Guest of Honour.

May Day brings together workers from private and public institutions and organizations as a show of solidarity in the quest to achieve their basic rights.

President Samia in her address to the workers pledged that the government will promote 92,619 employees in the next financial year, she further promise to reduce the "Pay as you Earn, (PAYE)" from 9% to 8%.

Meanwhile, Pharmacy Council staff from the Council's Headquarters in Dodoma participated in a joint demonstration held at the Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma, while those from the Eastern Zone took part in similar demonstration held at The Benjamin William Mkapa Stadium in Dar-Es-Salaam. The Pharmacy Council's theme for this year's celebrations was: "Uwajibikaji, Maslahi Bora, Huduma fanisi za Dawa - Kazi iendelee".



Pharmacy Council staff, from the Eastern Zone participated in a joint demonstration to commemorate May Day held at The Benjamin William Mkapa Stadium in Dar-Es-Salaam.

PST ELECTION

Fadhil Hezekiah is New PST President

By Anna Temu

JOIN PST - URGES FADHIL HEZEKIAH

appeal to all pharmacy " professionals, pharmacists, technicians and assistants to join the Pharmaceutical Society of Tanzania. This will strengthen the society and enable it discharge its responsibilities and carry out its functions and duties effectively and efficiently to ensure that the profession is highly respected a for the b<u>enefit of all the</u> professionals different of categories".

These are the remarks of the newly elected PST President Pharmacist Fadhil Hezekiah in his inaugural speech on 28th May, 2021. Pharmacist Hezekiah further urged those already on the members list to be active by serving the society diligently.

The New PST President went on to remind and encourage all pharmacy professionals to adhere to the code of ethics and professional conduct as they carry out their duties of providing pharmaceutical service to the community whether as government employees, private employees individual or as practitioners. The president noted that he was prompted to give that remark because there was information which linked some of the professionals with misconduct and breach of code of ethics.

AMACYCON

Mr. Hezekiah further called on all professionals to appreciate that, among other things, their profession, is concerned with the provision of pharmaceutical and healthcare services to the public, as such we have to cooperate with all medical professionals and other stakeholders in ensuring that we serve Tanzanians with the highest standard of professionalism.

Mr. Hezekiah on his behalf and that of other members of the pharmaceutical society paid tribute to the outgoing leadership for the good and splendid work they had done for the society. He asked the new leadership to work professionally and diligently in order to inspire more pharmacy professionals to join the membership of the society.

10-16 Juni 2021

Upatikanaji wa dawa sio ajenda ya bajeti pekee bali ni ajenda ya uwajibikaji wa kizalendo na nidhamu thabiti ya uongozi kwenye usimamizi sehemu ya Kazi. Niwakumbushe wataalamu wa famasi nchini kuzingatia miiko na maadili ya taaluma yenu katika kutekeleza majukumu kwa kuzingatia Sheria, Kanuni na Taratibu za Serikali katika usimamizi wa bidhaa za afya.

Mhe. Dkt. Dorothy Gwajima

Waziri wa Afya, Maendeleo ya Jamii, Jinsia, Wazee na Watoto

10-16 Juni 2021

Wafamasia ni chachu katika ukamilifu wa huduma tiba kwa wagonjwa wetu, nawasihi kufanya kazi kwa kujituma, uadilifu na weledi ili kuwa na ubora wa huduma unaotegemewa.

> **Prof. Abel Makubi** Katibu Mkuu - Wizara ya Afya

WIKIYA FAMASI

10-16 Juni 2021

Nawasisitiza wataalam wa Famasi umuhimu wa nidhamu, uwajibikaji na uadilifu katika taaluma hii. Ili kuwalinda wananchi, tuache utaratibu wa uuzaji wa dawa kiholela.

Bw. Daudi Msasi

Mfamasia Mkuu wa Serikali

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10-16 Juni 2021

Majukumu ya Mtaalam wa Famasi kama sehemu ya timu ya huduma kwa mgonjwa ni mtambuka na hubadilika. Tufanye kazi kwa weledi na kwa kufuata miongozo na maadili ya taaluma yetu ili kuboresha afya za watanzania.

> **Bw. Fadhil Hezekiah** Rais wa Chama cha Wafamasia

10-16 Juni 2021

Wanataaluma wa kada ya famasi ni nguzo muhimu katika ukamilishaji wa tiba kwa mgonjwa, tushirikiane ili kuboresha upatikanaji wa huduma bora za dawa kwa jamii.

> **Bi. Elizabeth Shekalaghe** Msajili wa Baraza la Famasi