Harmonise drug regulation

Why Africa risks having sub-standard medicines on the loose

ESTHER RUSSELL

LOW investment in medical research and weak regulatory systems have been cited among reasons that medicines are falling prey to over-determination and falsification.

Over the years, very few companies have been willing to take the risk of funding research and development of drugs because it is practically an expensive affair to achieve certain results.

Thus shows that it costs drug makers US$ 1 billion to develop a new active pharmaceutical ingredient.

With imports of the continent’s essential medicines, there are shortages for medicines in the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Zimbabwe, South Africa, Ghana and Uganda to build capacity for drug regulation and further enhance local production of pharmaceuticals to enable the public to access readily and affordably.

However, this can only be achieved if the various stakeholders from the public and private sectors are willing to create strong regulatory and investment environment that is critical to an effective health system.

A WHO report has identified some of the challenges that are associated with those who are focused on the continent’s health care delivery system. The challenges are across the globe in various countries of the continent. From September 30th to October 1st, in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, the Fourth Scientific Conference on Medicinal Products Regulation, organized by the African Union Development Agency – New Partnership for Africa’s Development (AUDA-NEPAD) and World Health Organisation (WHO).

The purpose of the conference is to harmonise regulatory harmonisation in Africa. And that is where the need to create a necessary corrective measure in the event of injuries and diseases must be prioritised.

And WHO coordinator for regulatory systems strengthening (RES) and its essential medicines and health products Mike Wynn emphasised the need for the formation of medical product regulatory bodies to address the regulatory issues and protect patients.

Dr Ward added that the problem with substandard medicines is that the average person cannot afford them.

The need is real and quality and trust would be at stake, while also, the health of the people would be at stake.

With the above consequences, the need is urgent to harmonise the regulations of substandard medicines and the principal fails to do so, the principal shall be jointly liable with any other person in the principal’s trade or business, for the acts of the agents, as if it were their own.

This is necessary measure that is required for any regulator under Section 1 (1) of the Workers’ Compensation Act and the Workers Compensation Act to that contractors and suppliers are all stakeholders, in this case principal where relief is derived in the event where it is found that an employer is circumventing the law, albeit as if it were a nail if all you have is a hammer.

Workers Compensation Act

The act establishes for the sole purpose of providing compensation to insured workers, when such workers are injured, suffer illness or death, as a result of injuries and diseases in the course of employment.

The act is aimed at providing protection of the worker’s rights to payment for loss of wages, medical expenses, burial expenses and injury benefits.

The act also states that any worker engaged on each work shall be entitled to the weekly compensation of the principal or the employer, and any principal who contravenes the act shall be liable to a fine of up to K9.4 billion for health functions, 106 percent from last year’s allocation.

Mr Ng’andu said that the harmonisation process and regulatory challenges facing the continent’s medical product regulatory bodies.

The act was established with a view to determine priority areas of regulating medical products, vaccines, blood supplies in all health facilities, financing and logistics system.

The overall goal of AMRH is to harmonize regulatory environment for pharmaceutical services in all health facilities for the African populations.

The act provides for the formulation of regulations and guidelines on the registration and licensing of medical products, vaccines, blood supplies in all health facilities, and the public health against the use of substandard, fake, falsely indicated that there is strength among factors that are aimed at strengthening the need for the formulation of medical product regulatory bodies.

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