

# Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority: protecting and promoting public health

## WHAT IS TFDA?

Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA), is a regulatory body responsible for controlling the quality, safety and effectiveness of food, drugs, herbal drugs, cosmetics and medical devices.

It was established under Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Act No. 1 of 2003, after repealing the Pharmaceuticals and Poisons Act No. 9 of 1978 (which established the Pharmacy Board) and Food (Control of Quality) Act No. 10 of 1978 (which established the National Food Control Commission).

TFDA, a semi-autonomous body under the Ministry of Health became operational on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2003.

## MISSION

To protect the health of consumers against hazards associated with food, drugs, herbal drugs, cosmetics and medical devices.

## VISION

To attain excellence in the control of food, drugs, cosmetics, medical devices and related products among the Sub-Saharan African countries by 2010.

## FUNCTIONS OF TFDA

1. To regulate importation, manufacturing, labelling, distribution, storage, promotion and sale of food, drugs, herbal drugs, cosmetics and medical devices
2. To inspect manufacturing facilities, product outlets and inlets to verify compliance to set standards and practices
3. To prescribe standards of quality, safety and effectiveness for food, drugs, herbal drugs, cosmetics and medical devices
4. To evaluate and register food, drugs, herbal drugs, cosmetics and medical devices before approval for use

5. To issue licences and permits for dealing in products regulated by the Authority
6. To analyse food, drugs, herbal drugs, cosmetics and medical devices to determine their quality, safety and effectiveness
7. To collect data of adverse health effects related to the use of the products regulated by the Authority
8. To promote rational use of drugs, herbal drugs, cosmetics and medical devices
9. To educate and provide unbiased information to the stakeholders and the general public on the products regulated the Authority.

## TFDA's STAKEHOLDERS

- Product manufacturers, processors, distributors, wholesalers and retailers
- Law enforcers
- Practitioners/Researchers
- Health care providers
- Government institutions
- International organisations
- NGOs
- Media
- Consumers and general public

## HOW IS TFDA ORGANISED?

TFDA is headed by the Director General who is responsible for the day to day operations of the Authority. She is accountable to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health. Under the Director General there are four Directorates:

- **Product Evaluation and Registration**- ensures that regulated products are correctly evaluated for quality, safety and effectiveness before being approved for use
- **Inspection and Surveillance**- conducts inspection, monitoring and surveillance to ascertain compliance with the standard requirements for

food, drugs, herbal drugs, cosmetics and medical devices and their handling practices

- **Laboratory Services**- provides analytical services for enhancing decision-making within the Authority
- **Business Support**- provides and enhances good management of the TFDA resources. It supports all technical operations to ensure smooth running of the Authority. The Directorate covers administration, finance, public education and management information system.

TFDA collaborate with the Regional and Local Authorities in enforcing the Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 2003

## **KEY RESULTS AREAS?**

In fulfilling its obligations, TFDA addresses the following Key Results Areas:

- Quality, safety and effectiveness of food, drugs, herbal drugs, cosmetics and medical devices in the market
- Information and education services on food, drugs, herbal drugs, cosmetics and medical devices
- Good management of TFDA

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