

# KENYA MEDICAL SUPPLIES AUTHORITY (KEMSA)

## PRESS RELEASE ON ALLEGED EXPIRY OF MEDICAL COMMODITIES AT KEMSA

Our attention is drawn to a report, which was published in a section of the media on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019, alleging expiry of drugs worth Ksh. 1.2 Billion.

The report is not factual and is misleading.

KEMSA wishes to clarify the following:

1. KEMSA stocks a range of medical commodities that include; Lab reagents, nutritional commodities, medicines and non-pharmaceuticals that have varied shelf life. As a policy, KEMSA receives health products with a minimum shelf life of at least 75% remaining.
2. The Ksh. 213.4 million worth of drugs alluded to, refers to a past report and the items have since been distributed and reached the intended patients across the country.
3. The referred Ksh. 1 billion worth of commodities purported to have seven months shelf-life remaining are commodities for distribution in two weeks. This distribution is ongoing.
4. The delay in distribution of Lopinavir/Ritonavir was occasioned by the need to conform to the International Standards as guided by World Health Organization regarding new health products and technologies. In the course of the current financial year, new HIV treatment guidelines were developed and launched. This led to transitioning of patients to more efficacious treatment regimens. In response to these changes, some commodities, were inevitably affected.
5. KEMSA in collaboration with National Health Programs and other stakeholders carries out an annual forecasting and quantification exercise, which is reviewed on a monthly basis to ensure that risks of loss due to expiry are mitigated. The authority has a robust ICT based Inventory management system that facilitates the issuance of medical commodities on a first expiry first out basis.
6. The commodity in question- Tenofovir/Lamiduvine/ Dolutegravir (TLD) in the KEMSA warehouse is sufficient to last the country until May 2019 and hence we would like to assure the public that there is no risk of expiry, loss of tax payers money or stock out.

KEMSA as a state corporation remains committed to deliver quality and affordable healthcare products and technologies to all Kenyans.



**Dr. Jonah Manjari**  
**Chief Executive Officer, KEMSA**  
**1<sup>st</sup> March 2019**