



JOINT PRESS RELEASE

BAN OF THE IMPORTATION AND SUPPLY OF ADULTERATED REVIN ENERGY DRINKS INTO MALAWI

The Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS) and the Pharmacy, Medicines and Poisons Board (PMPB), statutory organisations established by Acts of Parliament (Act No. 14 of 2012 and Cap 35:01, respectively) with the mandate to monitor the quality of food products and medicines, respectively, hereby make a joint public statement on recent developments related to the safety of Revin energy drinks.

The general public is hereby informed that following recent safety reports from Uganda and Zambia associated with consumption of Revin drinks, and analytical tests undertaken by the MBS and PMPB, the following Revin brands have been banned from importation and supply into Malawi with immediate effect:

- 1) Revin Tangawizi drink; and
- 2) Revin Natural Power SX High Energy drink

The analytical tests conducted by the MBS and the National Drug Quality Control Laboratory of the PMPB indicate that these Revin drinks are adulterated with **Sildenafil citrate**, an active pharmaceutical ingredient that is classified as Prescription Only Medicine (POM) in the Pharmacy, Medicines and Poisons Regulations (40A of 1998). As a prescription medicine, **Sildenafil citrate** can only be dispensed to a client upon production of a valid prescription by a certified medical practitioner as its use can result to severe life-threatening adverse events especially if taken without proper diagnosis and prescription. Some of the adverse effects include abnormally raised or lowered blood pressure, chronic heart failure, prolonged painful erection, heart attack, respiratory depression, blurred vision, nosebleeding, intense sweating, increased heart rate among others. This implies that the presence of this medicine in the above-stated energy drinks poses a health hazard to unsuspecting consumers.

In view of the foregoing, importers of these products, Revin (Mw) Ltd and Gatbro International Ltd, have been ordered to immediately proceed as follows:

- 1) To recall all the products of the brands mentioned above that were supplied onto Malawian market(s);
- 2) To declare with objective evidence quantities of these brands that were imported into the country, supplied onto the market and which will be recalled from the market;
- 3) To prescribe to the MBS and PMPB disposal arrangements for the recalled products, including stock not supplied onto the market;
- 4) To inform the general public or consumers that may be stocking the products the modalities to be followed to return the products and measures to be undertaken to redress any risks associated with consumption of the products;
- 5) To ensure voluntary recall from the market of any REVIN products not mentioned above, that according to the suppliers' knowledge. contain non-permissible compounds or additives.

The general public is therefore advised to desist from buying and consuming Natural Power SX energy drink and Revin Tangawizi drink until further notice from the competent authorities. The public is also advised to inform the MBS or PMPB (through contacts indicated below) of any individual or shop found importing, stocking or selling the banned products, for appropriate regulatory action.

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