

**September 30, 2015**

**Press Release  
Rwanda lists prohibited cosmetics**

**Kigali- September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015-** The Ministry of Health has issued a list of prohibited cosmetics in reference to the Law No47/2012 gazetted on 14/01/2013 relating to the regulation and inspection of food and pharmaceutical products. The move is aimed at protecting Rwandans from harmful cosmetics.

The gazetted law will regulate the manufacture, import, distribution and use of cosmetics identified to contain substances that are hazardous for human consumption. All dealers in manufacture, importation, distribution and use of cosmetics are required to comply with the provisions of the laws and regulations currently available to ensure the safety of all users.

In addition, a ministerial order establishing the list of harmful and prohibited cosmetics in Rwanda has been approved. The Ministry of Health in collaboration with other concerned stakeholders have established mandatory standards for cosmetics in accordance with the national and international standards, all cosmetics manufactured, imported and distributed in Rwanda that do not meet the mandatory standards will be listed as illegal.

According to the coordinator of pharmaceutical services at the Ministry of Health Joseph Kabatende, cosmetics listed as prohibited are those that contain ingredients that are harmful to human health, adding that the dangers of using such cosmetics include cancer and severe skin conditions.

Kabatende explains that it is important to understand that some cosmetics that are safe when people use them correctly may be unsafe when used the wrong way. Cosmetics must have directions for use to make sure people use them safely.

Health risks associated with the use of cosmetics that contain certain ingredients that harmful to human health include skin crusting, redness and itching. Other severe reactions include chest pains, breathing difficulties and swelling of the skin.

The Ministry of health urges all dealers, manufacturers, distributors and retailers to comply with the set standards and the provisions of the laws and regulations to ensure the safety of all users. All concerned stakeholders will conduct awareness campaigns to educate the public about the dangers such cosmetics. The list of prohibited and regulated substances in cosmetics shall be updated from

time to time by the competent authority as deemed necessary while every cosmetic product shall have a list of ingredients on the label.

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