

# NatPharm Newsletter

Volume 1 We deliver to the last mile January - June 2021

## About NatPharm

NatPharm is a state owned enterprise whose assigned mandate is to procure, store and distribute medicines and medical supplies to public health institutions. To complement this mandate and diversify revenue streams the company operates strategic business units catering for private sector needs. In line with the National Development Strategy 1, the company has commenced resuscitation of its production capacity by establishing manufacturing units.

## Mission

To provide equitable access to quality and affordable medicines, medical supplies and services to health care facilities in Zimbabwe and beyond.

## Vision

We envision a Zimbabwe in which every citizen has access to affordable, quality medicines and medical supplies at the point of need by 2030

## Values

Accountability; responsiveness; teamwork; innovation; quality

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## OUR PARTNERS





**Acting Managing Director, Air Commodore (Rtd) Ivan Gibson Dumba**

The publication of the First Edition of the NatPharm Newsletter is indeed a remarkable achievement as it takes place at a time when the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe has intensified efforts to steer the nation towards realizing National Vision 2030 of an Empowered and Prosperous Upper-Middle Income Society by the year 2030. Attainment of the National Vision is guided by various interventions with the National Development Strategy 1 2021-2025 being the first 5 Years Medium Term Plan. A key pillar of this Strategy is Health and Well Being. In this regard, Government recognizes that guaranteed access to affordable quality medicines and medication to all Zimbabweans regardless of time and geographical location is a key enabler for achieving high, accelerated, inclusive, sustainable socio-economic trans-

# The Managing Director's Note

formation and development. NatPharm is a vital cog in driving the process of attaining the National Vision 2030. Its assigned mandate is that of procurement, storage and distribution of medical supplies to all public health institutions. Registered private health care service providers have unlimited access to quality medicines and supplies available at competitive prices in all NatPharm's Strategic Business Units located at the Company's six (6) branches in Harare, Bulawayo, Mutare, Masvingo, Gweru and Chinhoyi. The First Edition of the NatPharm Newsletter provides the reader with an insight into the Company's activities, programmes and projects which contribute to the attainment of the National Vision 2030 through health services delivery. It also gives insights into the many opportunities available to both the public and private health sector service providers for collaborating with NatPharm in enabling the achievement of their objectives and targets. NatPharm applauds the launch of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Strategy for Zimbabwe (PMSZ) by the Vice President and Minister of Health and Child Care Honourable Gen (Rtd) Dr CDGN Chiwenga on 10 June 2021. The strategy seeks to promote and strengthen local production of essential

medicines. In an endeavour to support the Strategy, NatPharm is committed to buying its stock requirements of medicines from local pharmaceutical manufacturers in line with Government Policy of accelerating industrialization and import substitution. The Company in line with Government aspirations has commenced the resuscitation of its Production Units with the initial phase focussing on the production of sanitizers and disinfectants. This initiative received a major boost through support received from State Universities who in compliance with the Education 5.0 Model have committed themselves to transfer acquired technology to help in setting up these units. Given that the Universities have Research and Development capabilities, plans are in place to ride on this collaboration with them to venture into the production of other medicines, cognisant of the fact that the nation has a dire need for affordable quality medicines for chronic and communicable ailments. NatPharm also envisages a situation in the near future when it would be a procurer of traditional medicines including serving as the warehouse and distributor of choice for these medicines. Happy reading!

## Our newly appointed Managers



**Operations Manager  
Mr Cleyland Mtambirwa**



**Procurement Manager  
Mr Quiet Shangai**



**Commercial Manager  
Mr Munyaradzi Munyaradzi**



**Finance Manager  
Mr Allen Kwangware**

**An organization's success depends on hiring the right people, getting them into the right seats, and giving them opportunities to grow. Recruiting and developing talent contributes to an organization's productivity and growth.**

# Brief from the Operations Desk



Mr Kudakwashe Chimbarara  
Outgoing Acting Operations Manager

is to access their health related requirements at the service delivery points. NatPharm started the year with a realization of this expectation from our most valued stakeholder- the Population of Zimbabwe. In the first half of 2021 NatPharm did manage to cover every scheduled distribution program, from ZAPS, ZADS, VMMC (twice in this semester), ZiLaCoDs (3 times) and COVID-19 product distribution program which assumed a need based approach due to the urgency of the supply requirements. Not only NatPharm engaged into a higher operating gear in response to COVID-19. The entity saw immense support coming from the government of Zimbabwe, development partners and other stakeholders in response to this pandemic. We are truly assured that we are in this fight against COVID together. The latest procurements at NatPharm have been mostly from manufacturers, both local and international. This is in line with the directive from the parent Ministry to engage manufacturers. The company is realizing the fruits of such engagements, mostly being cost related benefits. Our drive to engage manufacturers has also received a fair share of support from many fronts, including Zimbabwe embassies around the world through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. As NatPharm, we believe the best out of these engagements is yet to be realized! The first half of 2021 did not go without its own challenges. COVID-19 has disrupted

supply pipelines resulting in delays in shipments and a relative rise in cost of some products and services. NatPharm thrives to have the full range of medicines and medical supplies needed by the nation of Zimbabwe, a position where we are not at currently. Our staff team continues to report for duty in this era where other functions have the option of operating from home. We have seen cases of COVID-19 amongst our workforce. The Company also remembers one of its long serving member John Tatire, the Masvingo stock controller who passed away in April 2021- May his soul rest in peace. The period ahead looks brighter. Our motto is "Access to affordable quality medicines" and we are driven by a huge quest to see this achieved. We deliver to the very last mile and we ensure there is equitable distribution of the available resources.

## Manufacturing

NatPharm is establishing production units to compliment the country's pharmaceutical manufacturing sector in line with the National Pharmaceutical Development Strategy 2021 – 2025. This initiative is supported by local state universities in line with the education 5.0 policy. State Universities have the assigned the mandate of technology research and development culminating in technology transfer to beneficiaries such as NatPharm. The collaboration with Universities envisages growth into production of medicines for communicable diseases and chronic ailments. Production at the new plant will commence in July. The Company is looking forward to producing sanitisers and other consumables to help in the fight against Covid-19.

## Warehousing

Warehousing is one of NatPharm's key responsibilities and an important aspect of the total drug control system. NatPharm has adopted a modern and sophisticated warehouse management system to ensure that there is no loss of drugs potency during storage which may influence the efficacy and safety of pharmaceuticals. NatPharm stores pharmaceutical products under the required controlled storage and transit conditions in order to ensure that their quality is not compromised. NatPharm warehouses meet international standards relating to medical storage environmental control, which include regulated temperatures and refrigeration, adequate lighting, humidity, conditions of sanitation, ventilation, and segregation.

## Distribution

NatPharm, which is part of the broader embodiment of the health delivery system, prides itself in being the quintessence in delivering the country's medicines and medical supplies to the last mile of the health supply chain. The country's largest medicines and medical supplies distributor, has a mandate enshrined in the Government Medical Stores (Commercialisation Act 13 of 2000) to deliver the country's medicines and medical supplies to all public health institutions. The Company has managed to consistently and efficiently execute this mandate at all costs. NatPharm will continue to carry out its responsibilities and achieve its objectives regardless of an array of dreadful challenges stemming from the marauding Covid-19 pandemic.

# Our Departments and their responsibilities

## Operations

The Operations Department is the prime driver of NatPharm's assigned mandate of procuring storing and distributing medicines and medical supplies. The Department is responsible for ascertaining requirements necessary to initiate the procurement process. On completion of the procurement process, delivery is effected with the Department certifying the appropriateness of quality, quantity and shelf life. Once in storage the department is responsible for ensuring ideal standards and conditions to avoid loss of drug potency. The department ensures that the delivery is effected to the point of need.

## Procurement

The Department supports the company's operations as the primary buyer of medicines and medical supplies. Consideration is given to timely procurement while maintaining the company's financial health through strict adherence to the value for money principle. The department is manned by procurement professionals who always ensure that all procurements are done in compliance with the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act [Chap 22:23] and other laid down regulations. The PMU Team is divided into three functions which are Medical Function; Non-Medical Function and the Emergency and Shipping Function.

## Finance

The Department is responsible for the mobilization of financial resources for the organization, optimal and equitable distribution of those resources to ensure going concern.

It's also entrusted with the mandate to safeguard the assets of the organization by ensuring proper financial management and maintaining a robust control environment. This encompasses financial reporting, management reporting, tax compliance, budgeting and budget control.



## Internal Audit

The NatPharm Internal Audit function was brought about due to the need to give systematic and disciplined guidance to NatPharm as a parastatal which is wholly owned by the Government of Zimbabwe. The authority of the department is derived from the Audit Charter which is in compliance with the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) guiding principle and gives unrestricted access to the whole company's records. NatPharm, among other statutes and regulations, is expected to follow guidelines set by the Public Finance Management Act, Public Entities Corporate Governance Act and The Governance Framework for State Enterprises and Para-

## ICT

Information Communication Technology (ICT), in the modern world, has become the engine for the growth of businesses and organisations both on the local and international terrain. NatPharm has established its information technology infrastructure to provide a solid platform on which its operations and business processes are hosted to meet the dynamic pharmaceutical business environment. NatPharm's information technology infrastructure has modern computer hardware, software, data, storage technology, and networks providing a portfolio of IT resources for the company.

statals of November 2010. The department is manned by business and finance professionals who provide independent, objective assurance and consulting services designed to add value and improve an organization's operations. The internal audit function helps the company to accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management (2120), control (2130), and governance processes (2110) as guided by the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) Standards. The function derives its independence from reporting functionally to the Board's Audit and Legal Committee.

## Human Resources

Strategic Human Resources Management aims at ensuring that the Company acquires and retains competent staff which can be deployed effectively and efficiently. The Company creates opportunities for a qualified and diverse workforce. NatPharm adheres to its comprehensive Code of Conduct and National Labour Laws to maintain industrial harmony. Maintaining a fair and equitable remuneration system that is sustainable is key to achieving overall company objectives.

The Department interacts with a vibrant Workers Committee thereby ensuring that commensurate conditions of service are availed and moral is high thereby achieving high productivity and efficiency.

# A WAREHOUSE MANAGER'S PERSPECTIVES

The Warehouse occupies a core position in the Procurement Supply Management (PSM) value chain. It is a key link in the supply chain given the prevailing competitive logistics business environment characterized by rapidly evolving trends in technology and the unique needs of customers. The expectation is that the warehouse should deliver world-class, error-free levels of service. This is achieved through key enablers, which include robust IT based systems, state of the art fixtures, handling equipment and competent/motivated staff. NatPharm has six (6) warehouses at Harare, Bulawayo, Gweru, Mutare, Masvingo and Chinhoyi. The warehouses receive and consolidate medical supplies from various suppliers and channel them to specific customers (Hospitals, Clinics and other Institutions). Specific core activities include receiving, storage, order picking and dispatching. In executing these core functions, the objective is to minimise costs and time, reduce spoilage, increase efficiency, consider environmental impact, manage warehouse space and layout, meet customer expectations and efficiently manage warehouse personnel. From the experience gained, the warehouse

is only as good as its personnel; hence it is important to carefully consider the many factors that have the potential to increase employee motivation. Motivation of employees is not achieved singularly through competitive salaries but also through task execution. Given that warehouse employee tasks seem to be routine, efforts are being made to introduce the presence or addition of game-like situations in the work routines. This removes boredom and increases the potential to enjoy their work thereby increasing motivation. For NatPharm, one of the major challenges has been inadequate storage space leading to recourse to leasing extra space requirements. The Harare Warehouse has storage space of 10200 square metres. An ideal situation would be to treble the space. On a positive note, a new warehouse is under construction adjacent to Sally Mugabe Central Hospital which has adequate space at current levels of demand. The new warehouse will have appropriate fixtures including mechanical handling equipment and cold chain facilities. Other recurring challenges include excess stocks, lack of space, low traceability, delays in order processing (gathering process), inaccurate inventory records and damaged



**Harare Regional Manager  
Miss Tendai Zimbowa**

products. Stock variances presented challenges during the year 2020 but these have largely been addressed through a Warehouse Optimization Programme focussing on improving stock visibility through accurate binning, labelling, segregation by variant code and assigning responsibility for variant codes to specific employees. Further to this, the Enterprise Resource Planning Module (Navision) has been upgraded through systems enhancements thereby providing real-time information on stock levels, locations, shelf life and facilitating compliance with FEFO. Quarterly stocktakes and routine snap checks have contributed to assurances of good and efficient warehousing practices.



**New Harare Warehouse**



**Masvingo Warehouse**

# Our Strategic Business Unit (SBU)



**Commercial Manager**  
**Mr Munyaradzi Munyaradzi**

“The Strategic Business Unit (SBU) was formed with the thrust to competitively compete in the Zimbabwean Pharmaceutical business sector as a wholesale and distribution entity.” The unit within NatPharm is strategically positioned to serve the

private pharmaceutical sector and in -turn in product-lines, the SBU is set to improve fill gaps in medicine availability in the public health sector. With the support of the Natpharm Senior Management and Board, the SBU is set to unlock its vast potential. Some of the potential within the entity will be realised by commercializing the SBU; forming strategic partnerships with key players in the health services sector; domestic and international players; increasing internal and external visibility; thriving for new business; and adopting strategies that give the SBU unique sustainable competitive advantage. In line with the Natpharm Strategic Plan, the SBU is in the process of ensuring an increase in its product-lines / offerings significantly between June 2021 and December 2021. Along with this constant increase

in product-lines, the SBU is set to improve its value chain, develop a robust customer-centric supply chain and be at the centre of customer relationship management. As Commercial Manager my assignment is to formulate the various strategies that will result in the SBU realizing its potential to the fullest. With the support of NatPharm as the SBU we hope we will see traction and markable difference and return on Investment in the entity. Through the commercialization of SBU, the unit will contribute significantly to the fulfilment of Natpharms’ mandate to the citizens of Zimbabwe which is access to quality affordable medicines and medical supplies to the nation. Health is security, support our contribution as SBU towards this cause and help us secure our nations’ health delivery service.

## The Internal Audit Function

The Calendar Month May, is celebrated globally as the Month of Internal Audit Awareness. The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA), to which the NatPharm Internal Auditors are professional members, encourages its members to disseminate information about the role of the internal auditors to its stakeholders. In this article, I will summarize what the Internal Auditors do. Internal Auditors are an important part of NatPharm. They provide an independent and objective assessment of the company’s operations, specifically the effectiveness of its internal control structure, risk management and governance structures. Internal Auditors use a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and provide assurance services. The IIA Internal Professional Practices Framework (IPPF) guides the work of the NatPharm Internal Auditors. Approaches used in the delivery of the mandate include analysing operations; reviewing compliance; recommending controls and assuring safeguards. An Internal Auditor often reviews procedures and operations closely, confirming that they are being followed correctly and that they support the organization’s

goals and objectives. After examining processes and procedures, the Internal Auditor reports his or her findings and works closely with auditees to provide accurate and pertinent recommendations that help the organization to adhere more closely to its objectives. Internal Auditors support Senior Management by staying fully educated about the intricacies of, implementation of strategies for, and compliance with current regulations and legislation. An Internal Auditor is often responsible for explaining and detailing the impact that non-compliance would have on the organization, as well as reporting signs or instances of non-compliance. Internal Auditors are also be expected to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of current controls and determine if those controls can truly mitigate risks that can threaten the organization. Effective internal control is a built-in component of the management process and keeps the organization on course toward its objectives and mission. Another common Internal Auditor function is to review how the organization protects its assets and assesses whether the appropriate safeguards are in place. If assets are not well protected, then the Inter-



**Internal Audit Manager**  
**Mr Brain Mutseyami**

nal Auditor must recommend appropriate changes. It is why Internal Auditors take an active role in the procurement and disposal of assets. To fulfill these responsibilities, Internal Auditors often provide services such as Financial Statement Audits; Operational Audits; Information Systems/Technology Audits and Management & Special Requests. Overall, Internal Auditors also provide assurance to Senior Management, Shareholders and the Board that systems are working as designed.

# NatPharm State-of-the-Art warehouse nears completion

National Pharmaceutical Company (NatPharm)'s new State-of-the-Art warehouse, which is being constructed in Southerton adjacent to the Company's Harare Regional Stores, is now 70 percent complete. The warehouse has the capacity to hold 12 000 pallets. Completion of the warehouse will see NatPharm increasing its storage capacity in line with the Company's strategy of increasing production and storage of locally manufactured pharmaceuticals as espoused in the National Pharmaceutical Strategy 2021-2025. Speaking on the sidelines of a tour of the new warehouse, Acting Managing Director, Air Commodore (Rtd) Ivan Gibson Dumba said once completed, the increased storage capacity will curb drug shortages and supply interruptions. "We are impressed with the progress being made in the construction of the new warehouse. Once it is completed, the country will have the capacity to store more medicines. We will also have no need to outsource storage. The contractor has in-



Chinese contractors shows NatPharm Internal Audit Manager, Mr Brain Mutseyami (left) and Mutare Branch Manager, Mr Kudakwashe Chimbarara (partly obscured) the new warehouse plan

formed us that the warehouse has a storage capacity of 12 000 pallets," he said. NatPharm management toured the new warehouse with UNDP officials who expressed interest in supporting processes leading to the completion of the warehouse.

## Natpharm poised for growth says Govt

This was said by the Deputy Minister of Health and Child Care, Dr John Mangwiro at the NatPharm Harare Regional Stores recently. "NatPharm is transforming in the direction that the Government is going," he said. "Orders are now getting to the last rural health centre in Zimbabwe, delivered by NatPharm. I am happy to say that I also saw the new plant. So, they are fulfilling this and they are working together with one of our universities. This is the direction the country is being taken by His Excellency Dr ED Mnangagwa," said Dr Mangwiro. This comes as Natpharm moves to revive production units following the launch of the National Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Strategy, which seeks to boost local production of essential pharmaceutical products. Natpharm Acting Managing Director Air Commodore (Rtd) Ivan Dumba said through partnerships with local universities technology transfer will be effected in line with Education 5.0.

For any views and comments  
please contact us on  
263-242-621991/5,  
Fax :263-242-621315,  
or email us at [info@natpharm.co.zw](mailto:info@natpharm.co.zw)

You can also follow us on Twitter  
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or visit our website [www.natpharm.co.zw](http://www.natpharm.co.zw)



Health and Child Care Deputy Minister, Dr John Mangwiro

The National Pharmaceutical Company of Zimbabwe (NatPharm) is being positioned to manufacture, increase its storage and distribution capacity.

## NatPharm sources APIs for local drugs manufacturers



Pharmaceutical Association of Zimbabwe members convene a meeting at NatPharm Head Office in Harare.

THE National Pharmaceutical Company Zimbabwe (NatPharm) is committed to assisting local pharmaceutical companies in sourcing Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) in a bid to boost their production capacities. In a meeting held with Pharmaceutical Association of Zimbabwe at the NatPharm Head Office in Harare recently, the state enterprise said it was working on assisting local companies in sourcing

APIs in line with Government thrust on import substitution.

NatPharm gives priority to local manufacturers in sourcing all its medicines and medical supplies requirements. NatPharm has embarked on revamping its production units in an endeavour to produce medicines complementing the efforts of companies in line with the local industrialisation thrust.



NatPharm Management, UNDP staff and Chinese contractors pose for a photo on the sidelines of a tour of the new State-of-the-Art Warehouse in Harare

### Quality Assurance

Our motto is “Access to affordable quality medicines” and the issue of quality on our products is of prime priority. Quality is guaranteed through sourcing of products from approved suppliers.

NatPharm also works hand in hand with the MCAZ who do quality control tests on most formulations of pharmaceutical products. Quality of products is also guaranteed through proper storage conditions that is, abiding by the storage requirements prescribed by the manufacturer.

### Health and Safety

NatPharm values the safety and health of its employees. The company provides the state-of-the-art equipment to ensure the health and safety of employees. The prevention of workplace injuries and illness takes precedence over production, and we provide employees with trainings and personal protective clothing needed to do the job safely and effectively. Our safety and health programs also address fire safety, first aid and use of personal protective clothing.

We also expect employees to take ownership of health and safety, comply with procedures and immediately report any unhealthy or dangerous situation.

We strive to maintain the safety and health of our employees through the identification, monitoring and reduction of exposure to risks that can lead to accidents. An industrial clinic caters for health needs. Compliance Covid-19 prevention measures is also given high priority.



# NatPharm Employees vaccinated, undergo regular Covid testing

NATPHARM, as an essential service provider, has enhanced its standard operating procedures in the fight against Covid-19.

The company's employees continue to heed the national call to get vaccinated so as to minimize the risk of contracting the Covid-19 pandemic.

To date more than 150 employees have been fully vaccinated.



NatPharm Acting Managing Director, Air Commodore (Rtd) Ivan Gibson Dumbo receives his second jab of the Sinovac vaccine at NatPharm Harare Regional Stores



NatPharm Supply Chain Analyst, Mr Denis Gono gets tested for Covid-19 by a taskforce member from Sally Mugabe Central Hospital at the NatPharm Harare Regional Stores

NatPharm employees also undergo regular compulsory Covid-19 testing to minimise exposure and possible spreading of the disease by ensuring early detection.

The employees are also equipped with adequate personal protective clothing (PPEs) to minimise the risk of transmitting or contracting the virus.

Zimbabwe has approved Sinopharm, Sinovac (China), Sputnik (Russia) and an Indian vaccine to inoculate its population.

## Bulawayo Regional Branch

(Serves Bulawayo Metropolitan, Mat North, Mat South Provinces)

5 - Empress Street

P.O. Box 8561

Belmont

Bulawayo

Tel: (0292) 474951-2, 470167, 461740

## Gweru Branch

(Serves Midlands Province)

Gweru Provincial Hospital Grounds

P.O. Box 6129

Gweru

Tel: (0254) 223911, 228418, 228424

## Mutare Branch

(Serves Manicaland Province)

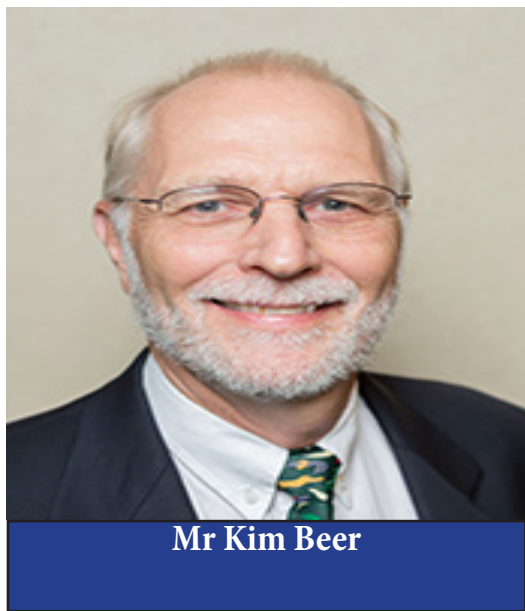
Mutare Provincial Hospital Grounds

Bag 7072

Mutare

Tel: (02020) 63310, 67735

# Harare Regional Branch Warehouse Optimisation complete



Mr Kim Beer

In July 2020 the bin location system was implemented. With this, every bin (shelf) has a number, and the LMIS (Logistics Management Information System – “Navision”) tracks exactly which product, in which batch, from which donor is located in which bin. As a next step, all areas of the warehouse will be divided into sections, each of which will have a defined list of products from defined donors, and have dedicated teams. The physical re-organization has also paved the way for several process improvements. As one result, this has enabled stock takes to be conducted in five days, rather than the four weeks used in the past, and have accurate counts. It has also enabled order processing to be much more efficient and accurate than in the past. With the bin location system, the pick lists specify exactly where the assembler will find the desired product – rather than hunting around the warehouse based on memory – dramatically reducing the time needed to assemble

an order. As one result, for the first time in many years, the Harare Store completed a quarter ZAPS distribution on time in the quarter which ended in December 2020. And has accomplished the same for both Q1 and Q2, 2021. Importantly, the physical organization of inventory has also contributed significantly to reduce the number of variances, a long-standing and major challenge. Of course, there is always room for improvement, so the Warehouse Optimization work will continue. It is also planned to expand the work to other branches during 2021.



The optimised Harare warehouse

NatPharm Harare Regional Branch has undergone a year-and-a-half long process of Warehouse Optimization. This involved physical organization of stocks and process and system improvements. Without physical order, everything else is difficult and likely to be fruitless. Therefore, many months have been used to clear aisles, move stocks onto shelves, consolidate products and batches.

## NatPharm Harare Regional Branch conducts stock-take

National Pharmaceutical Company (NatPharm) conducts scheduled stock-takes in line with good warehousing practices. The stock-takes are done quarterly and are witnessed by natPharm internal audit and reputable audit firms contracted by health development partners to gain assurance that Government and donated medicines are fully accounted for. The second quarter 2021 stock-take programme for Harare was witnessed by Enerst and Young, PWC and PKF Zimbabwe. The Internal Audit Manager, Mr Brain Mutseyami said stocktaking allows NatPharm and its development partners to keep an accurate track of the physical stock of medicines and medical supplies available and what has been distributed. “It’s all about comparing the physical stock to what the report says then finding any discrepancies,” he said. Mr Mutseyami said the stocktake-cum-au-

dit will also interrogate issues to do with warehousing facilities and their suitability to handle certain medicines under particular drug control and storage environments. PWC representative, Mr Godfrey Magwindiri, who are monitoring stocks procured under Global Fund said accuracy and regular processes of stock-take will help with making an informed, data-backed decision. “As PWC we do observations and we will then come back to NatPharm with the findings and then report to Global Fund. We are mainly concerned with observing whether the instructions given by NatPharm are being adhered to,” he said. Ernest and Young representative, Ms Khumbulani Muchetu said the organisation is physically checking and counting the quantities of the stock held in an inventory or NatPharm warehouse on behalf of UNDP.

“We want to verify the physical existence of stock on behalf of UNDP. We want to verify the stock that has been given to NatPharm by global health partners,” she said. PKF Zimbabwe representative, Ms Ethel Rose Zakeo said the organisation was mainly checking the condition of storage for medicines donated by Chemonics and physically verifying their existence. “We are mainly concerned with 14 medicines under Chemonics. We are looking at the condition of storage and also reviewing records. We also want to do physical verification,” she said. The engagement of external auditors for stocktaking is also in line with Good Governance principles



# Unpacking the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Strategy in Zimbabwe

Government approved and subsequently launched the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Strategy: 2021-2025. This came as Government acknowledged that the major challenge bedeviling the pharmaceutical sector was low production as a result of use of obsolete and antiquated equipment, cumbersome registration procedures and limited innovation. Implementation of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Strategy will not only resolve these bottlenecks but will also result in increased production of essential medicines for both domestic and export markets. The objectives of the Strategy include the following: to increase the market share of local pharmaceutical products from the current 12 percent to 35 percent by 2025; to increase local production of essential medicines from US\$31.5 million to US\$150 million by 2025; to increase local production of essential medicines from 30 percent to 60 percent by 2025; and to improve exports of pharmaceutical products from 10 percent to 25 percent by 2025. As a result of interventions made the outcome would



Minister of Health and Child Care and Vice President, General (Rtd) Dr CDGN Chiwenga and Industry and Commerce Minister Sekesai Nzenza launching the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Strategy in Harare recently. The strategy aims to increase production; enhancement of competitiveness; market expansion; production diversification; export development; improved ease of doing business; and mobilisation of the required financial resources. NatPharm will complement the strategy

from local manufacturers. The Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Strategy, the first one in the history of Zimbabwe, is envisaged to facilitate the growth of the sector and guarantee affordable medicines for the citizens.

## NatPharm takes part in Angel-of-Hope Charity golf tournament

Blessed is the hand that Giveth. So goes a bible verse which encourages the haves to share with the have-nots. The First Lady, Amai Auxillia Mnangagwa founded a charity organisation, Angel-of-Hope with the eagerness to transform the livelihoods of the less privileged and vulnerable members of the society mostly children and women. Thousands of people mostly in rural areas, had their lives transformed by the First Lady through her wide-ranging philanthropic work. NatPharm in May took part in the charity Golf tournament held for Angel of Hope



From left: NatPharm Harare Regional Manager Tendai Zimbowa, PRO Munyaradzi Musiiwa and Mutare Branch Manager Kuda Chimbarara pose for a photo during the charity tournament

at Borrowdale Brooke Golf Course in Harare as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR).

The tournament was held amid pomp and funfare and was graced by Minister of Finance and Economic Development. Amai Mnangagwa was the guest of honour where she thanked the corporate world for the unwavering support they give to the organization. The First Lady has also launched a cervical cancer screening campaign encouraging women to get screened for cervical cancer which most women were failing to detect early. NatPharm supports the initiative through storage and distribution of needed commodities

**We deliver to the last mile**