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The Minister of Health, Dr. Mekdes Daba, made a significant visit to the Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority to observe its operations.

This visit on April 3, 2024, marked Dr. Mekdes' first since assuming the role as Minister of Health.

The Minister received a warm welcome from senior officials and management members of the Authority and had the opportunity to tour the pharmaceutical and medical equipment quality testing laboratories alongside institution leaders.

During the half-day visit, the Director General of the Authority, Heran Gerba, expressed gratitude to Dr. Mekdes for taking the time to visit and provided a comprehensive overview of the institution's accomplishments, operational successes, and areas where support from the Ministry of Health is needed.



Dr. Mekdes commended the Authority for its customer-focused approach and assured that any challenges faced by the institution would be addressed under her close supervision.

Dr. Mekdes emphasized the importance of dedication and service excellence from the institution's staff.

She encouraged the Authority to continue their efforts in modernizing and digitizing work processes, as well as in obtaining and maintaining laboratory accreditations.

EFDA VALUES

- Public first
- Integrity and respect
- Continuous improvement
- Accountability
- Quality
- Commitment
- Transparency
- Excellence
- Teamwork

EFDA VISION

To be a center of excellence in food and health products regulation in Africa

EFDA MISSION

To protect and promote public health by ensuring the safety, effectiveness, quality and proper use of regulated products through licensing, inspection, registration, laboratory testing, post-marketing surveillance, community participation, and provision of up-to-date regulatory information.

EFDA OBJECTIVE

To protect and promote public health through realization of the following objectives:

1. Protect the public from unsafe food
2. Safeguard the public from falsified, substandard and ineffective health products
3. Protect the public from tobacco and alcohol related health risks
4. Attain public confidence on food and health product regulation

Strategic Directions

1. Strengthen food safety regulation.
2. Strengthen detection, prevention and response to food adulteration and illegal trade
3. Improve regulation of safety, efficacy, quality and proper use of medicines
4. Strengthen safety, quality and performance regulation of medical devices
5. Improve regulation of safety of cosmetic products
6. Strengthen tobacco and alcohol control system
7. Enhance public ownership
8. Improve efficiency and effectiveness
9. Enhance partnership and collaboration
10. Enhance good governance
11. Improve human resource development and Management
12. Improve evidence-based decision making
13. Strengthen Food and health products regulatory infrastructures
14. Improve quality management system
15. Improve formulation and implementation of legal frameworks

The Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority is actively overseeing the construction progress of the upcoming Center of Excellence to ensure timely completion.

On March 4, 2016, Minister of Health Dr. Ayele Teshome, alongside senior officials including the Authority's Director General, Heran Gerba, assessed the development status of the center being built in Aqaki Kaliti sub-city.

Dr. Ayele emphasized the importance of meeting the project deadline and urged the contractor to maintain a diligent pace to ensure the timely completion of the Center of Excellence, which has currently reached 32.5% of its total construction.

Heran Gerba, the Director General of the Authority, expressed gratitude to the Ministry for their support and highlighted the Authority's close monitoring of the construction process to expedite its completion.

The Center of Excellence, spanning 10,500 square meters with ten floors, will house a food and drug laboratory, a training center, and a parking facility. With a budget exceeding 1.2 billion birr fully financed by the World Bank, this state-of-the-art facility is set to enhance regulatory capabilities in Ethiopia.



The Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority and the Ethiopian Agriculture Authority have come together through a memorandum of understanding to collaborate on ensuring the quality and safety of food.

During the signing of the memorandum on April 3, 2024, at the Authority's headquarters, Heran Gerba, the Director General, emphasized the importance of formalizing their partnership to plan and assess past collaborations with the agriculture Authority. She highlighted the significance of controlling the food chain from farm to plate, particularly focusing on partially and fully processed foods.



Ambassador Deriba Kuma, the Director General of the Ethiopian Agriculture Authority, echoed the shared goal of safeguarding citizens' safety and health while promoting a productive workforce. He emphasized the crucial role of maintaining the safety and quality of raw food ingredients in ensuring the overall quality and safety of the food produced.



Both Authorities recognized that by combining their strengths and working in harmony, they can achieve impactful outcomes that extend beyond national boundaries. The agreement was noted to involve supervisors at all levels to ensure effective implementation, indicating a comprehensive approach to collaboration.

The farewell ceremony for the honorable Dr. Lia Tadesse and the reception ceremony for Minister of Health Dr. Mekdes Daba took place in a vibrant atmosphere.

Mrs. Workesmu Mamo, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Health, Social Development, Culture, and Sports Affairs of the House of Representatives, praised Honorable Lia Tadesse as an exemplary figure for women worldwide due to her exceptional leadership abilities, humility, and attentive approach towards people. She highlighted the significance of female leaders who demonstrate effectiveness and efficiency.

During the event, officials and representatives from various organizations bestowed accolades upon Honorable Dr. Lia Tadesse in recognition of her seasoned and committed leadership during her five-year tenure in the health sector.



Director General of Ethiopian food and Drug Authority, Heran Gerba presented a certificate and a commemorative award on behalf of their institution, extending best wishes for her future endeavors.

The Ministry of Health orchestrated the ceremony on February 25, 2024, at the Sky Light Hotel in Addis Ababa. Esteemed government officials warmly received Honorable Dr. Lia Tadesse, with Minister of Health Dr. Mekdes Daba also gracing the occasion.



The Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority, in collaboration with regional health regulatory bodies, assessed the progress of the first half-year plan implementation.

During the forum held on February 29 and March 1, 2024, Dr. Dereje Duguma, the Minister of Health, emphasized the importance of the regulatory sector in the health field and urged all regulatory bodies to collaborate with stakeholders and partner organizations to enhance public health.

Mrs. Muluemebet Tadesse, the Director General of the Addis Ababa Food and Drug Authority, outlined efforts to strengthen regulatory work through institutional changes and closer collaboration with federal regulators.



The evaluation forum addressed challenges like corruption in health control, emphasizing the need for internal auditing systems and digital operations to combat such issues.



Certificates of appreciation were awarded to regions, zones, and districts for their contributions to regional control, with regions receiving laptops as support. The evaluation platform was funded by USPQM Plus.

The Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority has unveiled a plan to enhance the control system for medical devices in collaboration with partner organizations.

During a workshop on March 14, 2024 in Addis Ababa, the Authority presented a three-year improvement plan for the medical device control system spanning from mid-2016 to mid-2019.

Dr. Sharmarke Sharif, Deputy Director General of the Authority's Medical Equipment Control Sector, emphasized the importance of ensuring the quality and safety of medical equipment to safeguard public health.

Dr. Sharmarke highlighted the recent establishment of independent legal regulations for medical device control and acknowledged the need for support from partner organizations to address existing challenges in legal, financial, and human resources aspects.

He also announced plans for a nationwide survey on medical device control and encouraged active participation from partner organizations. In response, partner organizations praised the strategic plan put forth by the authority and expressed willingness to provide support upon receiving detailed information on how they can contribute.



Discussions were held with a delegation of medical equipment and drug manufacturers from Algeria.

A delegation of medical equipment and drug manufacturers from Algeria met with Getachew Genete, the Authority Medicine Manufacturers Inspection and Enforcement Lead Executive Officer to discuss potential investments in Ethiopia.

During the meeting, Getachew highlighted Ethiopia's resources for production and explained the registration and control processes for drugs and medical devices in the country.



The Algerian delegation expressed their interest in exploring opportunities for producing medicine and medical equipment in Ethiopia, with a focus on providing African-made products to benefit the local population.

The visit was part of an agreement between the two countries to strengthen their relationship and capitalize on mutual opportunities for collaboration. It is known that the delegation's visit is based on an agreement between the two countries and that it is aimed at making use of existing opportunities to strengthen the relationship between the two countries.



Special Guest



Her Excellency Dr. Mekdes Daba, Minister of Health

Dr. Mekdes Daba, Minister of Health, visited the Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority on April 3, 2024, following her appointment to the position. During her visit, she was warmly received by high officials, including the Director General of the Authority, Heran Gerba. Throughout the half-day visit, she toured various medicine and medical device laboratories. At the end of her visit, she provided feedback and guidance based on her observations and requested support from the Director General of the Authority. In this edition, we are pleased to highlight some of the key points that Dr. Mekdes Daba, Minister of Health, focused on during her visit to the Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority on April 3, 2024.

During her visit to the Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority on April 3, 2024, Dr. Mekdes Daba, Minister of Health, commended the Authority for its unwavering dedication and commitment to their work, emphasizing that they operate without constraints of space. She praised their willingness to stand firm and say no when necessary to prevent harm to the community. Dr. Mekedes acknowledged the authority's pivotal role in the sector, highlighting its significance in licensing and as a strong connecting force within the industry.

Recognizing the need for strong leadership in the sector, she expressed gratitude for the warm reception she received and thanked Director General of EFDA, Heran Gerba for her leadership at the Authority.

Dr. Mekedes reflected on her past collaborations with Heran Gerba during challenging times in the country, noting the open communication and support she had received. She credited the Authority for its consistent support in providing essential health supplies during critical situations, emphasizing the importance of maintaining an open dialogue for feedback and improvement.

Dr. Mekedes reiterated her commitment to engaging with and addressing concerns proactively, emphasizing the long-standing partnership between her office and the authority. She expressed appreciation for the continued support and services provided by the management, underscoring the importance of collaboration and communication in advancing public health initiatives. she

said "Your organization may encounter obstacles while striving to safeguard public health. As professionals within this institution, it is crucial to recognize the weight of the responsibility entrusted to you and to act with integrity and dedication in serving the community. Your actions should always be guided by a strong moral compass. I urge you to uphold these principles."

This institution aspires to outshine others and instill confidence in national food and drug regulatory bodies. Clarity and integrity must underpin all decisions.

Embracing digitization can streamline services, enhance user experience, and minimize grievances. Beyond office walls, the EFDA has a myriad of tasks to accomplish. It is imperative to strategize ways to boost employee efficiency, expedite service delivery, and mitigate risks.

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Minimizing reliance on human-centric processes is key to resolving pertinent issues. The ongoing initiatives are commendable. Although rumors often overshadow the remarkable work of our laboratories, prioritizing professionalism and efficiency will strengthen our operations. I believe that human resources are a pivotal aspect that warrants attention. How can professionals contribute to civil service reform? We are at a critical juncture to rectify existing shortcomings. Incremental improvements and leadership support are vital to safeguarding employee interests. Together, we must navigate challenges and enhance the civil service landscape.

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As we focus on boosting local manufacturing, it's essential to consider how our production efforts can benefit not only ourselves but also others in the community. Therefore, as we delve into domestic production, particularly in a governmental capacity, it's important to acknowledge that this endeavor will demand significant resources from all parties involved due to the technical complexities at play. I am prepared to collaborate with you in this endeavor.

Hence, it is imperative to enhance our monitoring of an effective management system in order to establish credibility for our laboratory and engage in advocacy efforts. I will be taking an active role in advocacy work across various platforms. Convincing a local manufacturer to upgrade from level 3 to level 4 sanders can be challenging. As we are aspire at level four, our goal is to progress even further by starting at level three and putting in the necessary effort. If collaboration with other agencies is required, I am prepared to work alongside you to achieve our objectives.

It is crucial for this organization to receive support, which is why it is vital to engage with external partners. Understanding the industry is also significant. We have not effectively showcased our country's accomplishments. Our efforts have not been well publicized.

There is a lack of awareness regarding the potential of our human resources. While our country has many opportunities, we need assistance from others to make progress. It is our collective responsibility to pool resources and strive towards our goals. Honesty and transparency are key in our advocacy efforts. Our expertise in Africa is valuable, but more work is needed to enhance our capabilities. The establishment of a center of excellence by the training office is a major step in the right direction.

In the upcoming times, we plan to incorporate experiences not just from Africa, but also from various other nations. There are numerous opportunities ahead of us to make significant contributions to African countries, through collaborative training, capacity-building exchanges, and boosting the morale of public servants. Our team is dedicated to expediting ongoing projects and completing those that are already underway. We urge you to join us in this journey. It has been advised that we refrain from initiating new projects until the existing ones are successfully completed, as most of our budget is tied up in unfinished ventures. Finding a swift resolution to this issue is imperative.

We are considering embarking on ambitious health projects and will reach out to you once we have a solid foundation in place. Specifically, we are addressing any issues related to human resources as they arise. This has recently led to a bottleneck in the transfer process. We are communicating this to those involved, and in the meantime, I am prepared to collaborate with you to ensure that technical advisors are available to support them until we can onboard them with the help of donor organizations wherever feasible.

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Many exciting developments have begun in the field of Digital Health. One noteworthy advancement is ERIS, previously known as EFDA, which leverages digital technology. It is important for us to consider the potential contributions that this sector can make to the digital landscape. As we continue to digitize tasks and streamline processes, such as modernizing controls to minimize human intervention, we can expect to see significant efficiencies. Let's collaborate effectively to maximize the benefits of these innovations. It's a difficult thing to say that somebody solves everything. Therefore, we need to figure out how to generate income to renew the office in an innovative way. If we make good use of our inner creativity to solve our inner problems.

In our sector, it is imperative that we expedite and enhance our procurement procedures. I am confident that we will witness significant improvements, particularly as we explore ways to streamline and modernize the resources required for regional laboratories. Much progress has already been made, and there is great potential for collaboration. Numerous initiatives exist within this field. Given its regulatory nature, we must prioritize maintaining public trust and credibility.

It is crucial to have stringent control over our actions. Whenever there is a query or concern raised by society, we must address it seriously and reflect on ourselves. It is essential to evaluate our institution thoroughly. As we all are aware, numerous questions arise in the authority office and various departments. Individuals discuss these issues ranging from customs practices to internal processes, but it does not necessarily mean that all allegations are accurate. However, it is imperative to revise our protocols to ensure complete transparency and accountability in our operations.

Another good thing to do is to establish Omdurman within your internal procedures that hears complaints impartially and works closely with management to resolve problems before they escalate to legal action. I will raise this when it goes with all the institutions.

Upon receiving the request for the overseas inspection trip, I personally took charge of ensuring its execution, recognizing its significance. Unfortunately, unforeseen issues at a national level regarding foreign travel have resulted in a temporary delay in addressing your specific case. Moving forward, I am confident that we can reach a resolution by emphasizing the trip's benefits and drawbacks, clarifying that this matter is distinct from standard office procedures.

There are numerous inquiries surrounding the field of medicine, which may also coincide with the services provided by Ethiopian drug suppliers. Medicine is an essential necessity for the general public. Another aspect to consider is health insurance. Thus, it will require significant effort to enhance financial capabilities through initiatives in the coming years.

Hence, it is imperative to boost the availability of medications promptly. We are required to streamline our efforts to a great extent. There are certain tasks that need to be expedited in order to handle the incoming workload efficiently. We should aim to implement these changes at the earliest opportunity.

The efforts being made to support those in need are commendable. We have an establishment dedicated to upholding standards and serving the community. This helps counteract the pessimistic mindset that Ethiopia is constantly struggling. Both pharmaceutical importers and donor groups should conduct thorough research before bringing in medications. Donor organizations, in particular, receive products for free, so it is essential for this establishment to exercise caution.

The importance of maintaining the quality of imported medicine in our country cannot be overstated. It is crucial to protect our society by ensuring that only safe and effective medications are available for use. There is a pressing need to address issues surrounding the handling and distribution of drugs within Ethiopia, particularly concerning the drug warehouse. It is essential that we address the concerns raised by suppliers and the community alike to uphold the standards of quality in healthcare.

This situation presents a positive opportunity for us to begin. By promptly clearing any remaining backlogs, we will be able to efficiently respond to inquiries from the community. While I understand that there is existing backlog available, I believe it would be beneficial to increase our working hours and offer complimentary services to expedite the process.

According to reports from the society, there is a lack of essential medications available. The primary provider of these medicines is the Ethiopian Drug Supply Service, and they are regulated by the EFDA. To address concerns from both parties, it is essential for us to join forces and work together in collaboration.

Another good thing to do is to establish Omdurman within your internal procedures that hears complaints impartially and works closely with management to resolve problems before they escalate to legal action. I will raise this when it goes with all the institutions.