

FDA AND THE POLICE ARREST DRUG PEDDLERS IN THE ASHANTI REGION

The Ashanti Regional Office of the Food and Drugs Authority in collaboration with the Ashanti Regional Police Drug Law Enforcement Unit have arrested nine (9) drug peddlers on suspicion of peddling assorted unregistered medicines and concoctions to the public.



The drug peddlers displaying some of their unregistered medicines

The FDA, on the 4th of July 2017, was informed by the Police Drug Law Enforcement Unit of the arrest of these drug peddlers who were selling several unregistered medicines and concoctions; of particular concern was the high dose of Tramadol 225mg. The Police invited the FDA to verify the registration of the suspected unregistered medicines and possible legal actions to take with respect to the provisions of the Public Health Act, 2012, Act 851.

Some of the suspected unregistered drugs seized from the drug peddlers are Tramadol 225mg, Davegra 150, Varga extra 150, black cobra 150, Arolgra 150mg, Kotina Herbal Dental Care Solution, Kotina Herbal Tincture, Kotina Herbal Ointment, Ibuglo Plus and other bottled concoctions.

Some of the dangers or side effects of abusing and using high doses of Tramadol include headache, dizziness, drowsiness, tired feeling, constipation, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, feeling nervous or anxious and itching. The others are sweating, flushing (warmth, redness, or tingly feeling), noisy breathing, sighing, shallow breathing, a slow heart rate or weak pulse, a light-headed feeling (like you might pass

out), seizures (convulsions), infertility, missed menstrual periods, impotence, sexual problems and loss of interest in sex.

A vast majority of the other unregistered products that were seized from the peddlers are “aphrodisiacs”. These aphrodisiacs contain abnormally high doses of tadalafil (a prescription only medicine). Some of the complications of these medicines include heart failures, stroke, priapism, sudden death and vaginal cancer (in the case of aphrodisiacs meant for women to apply in the vagina).

Further interrogations and investigations by the combined team of the FDA officials and the Police have led to the arrests of a lady whose name was only given as Akua of French Line, a suburb of Kumasi and who is believed to be the source of the unregistered products. The ongoing investigations in that same area led to the closure of a shop that was found to have large stock of assorted unregistered drug products and an unlabeled concoction popularly called “Awonche” which the peddlers claim to be a heart cleanser bought from a man at Ayeduase.

In line with the FDA’s mandate of protecting public health and safety, the shops where the unregistered products were seized have been locked by the FDA.

The FDA has scheduled the 10th of July 2017 to safely dispose of the assorted medicines and concoctions seized from the two shops.

