

FDA COLLABORATES WITH THE GOSPEL ARTISTE, AKESSE-BREMPONG, TO ORGANISE 'NO WEED, SAY NO TO TRAMADOL' CAMPAIGN

The Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) has collaborated with the Akesse-Brempong Ministries to sensitize participants at the 2018 edition of the Agape Carnival on the effects of drug abuse. The 2-day carnival which took place at the Mantse Agbona, Accra Central, from Saturday 28th to Sunday 29th July 2018, was organized under the theme; *No Weed, Say No to Tramadol*.

The proliferation and abuse of substances especially Codeine containing Cough Syrups and Tramadol, which are usually in higher doses (120mg, 200mg, 225mg and 250mg) has become a major public concern in recent times.

Addressing participants during the 2018 Carnival, officers of the Tobacco and Substances of Abuse Department (TSAD) of the FDA highlighted the effects of substance abuse.

The team further informed the participants that Tramadol is a prescription-only-medicine (POM), a man-made (synthetic) narcotic pain reliever (analgesic) used to treat moderate to severe pain, which works on the nervous system and brain to reduce the feeling of pain.

Participants were also informed of the dangers of Tramadol and Codeine abuse which results in headache, dizziness, drowsiness, tired feeling, constipation, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, feeling nervous or anxious and itching. Other symptoms of abuse 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.

The team assured the participants of the FDA's resolve within its mandate to ensure an eventual eradication of this menace which has a wide reaching negative effect on public health. Participants were also advised on the need to desist from this dangerous practice.

The team also used a one-on-one approach to educate members of the community on the effect of substance abuse including tobacco and tobacco products such as 'shisha'.

The two days carnival commenced with a health walk along the principal streets of Mantse Agbona after which a free health screening was done for interested members of the community. The carnival was climaxed with a musical show.