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PRESS RELEASE

**TANZANIA SETS HISTORIC DIRECTION TO BECOME A REGIONAL
PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING HUB**

Dar es Salaam, 23 December, 2025.

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has formally announced a decisive and strategic shift to accelerate domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing, positioning the country as a future hub for medicine production in East Africa and beyond.

Speaking at a high-level meeting with pharmaceutical manufacturers and health product stakeholders, **Hon. Mohamed Mchengherwa, Minister for Health**, stated that pharmaceutical industrialization is no longer aspirational but a firm national decision.

“The development of pharmaceutical manufacturing in Tanzania is not an experiment—it is a strategic direction that has already been decided by the Government,” said Minister. Mchengherwa.

The Minister emphasized that national health security cannot be sustained through import dependency alone, but must be anchored in **local manufacturing that meets internationally recognized quality standards**, particularly **WHO Good Manufacturing Practices (WHO-GMP)**.

“WHO-GMP is not a luxury and not a decorative certificate—it is the passport to access the global pharmaceutical market,” he stressed.

Addressing the Competitiveness Gap

Minister Mchengherwa noted that Tanzania’s limited participation in global pharmaceutical exports is not due to lack of market demand or expertise, but rather the challenge of meeting international standards. He cited comparative export data showing that in 2023 Tanzania exported less than USD 1 million worth of pharmaceutical products, while neighboring Kenya exceeded USD 140 million.

“This is not a market problem—it is a standards problem,” he stated.

Fast-Tracking Investment: Green-Lane & PIAT

To address these challenges, the Government has introduced a **Green-Lane Approval System** under the **Pharmaceutical Investment Acceleration Programme**, designed to fast-track strategic pharmaceutical investments by eliminating unnecessary administrative delays.

In addition, the Government has established the **Pharmaceutical Investment Acceleration Taskforce (PIAT)** — a high-level, empowered inter-institutional body mandated to make rapid, coordinated investment decisions across licensing, land, regulation, utilities, finance, and public procurement.

“We have moved away from fragmented, slow approvals. Serious investors will receive clear, predictable, and timely decisions,” said Minister Mchengewa.

Expression of Interest (EOI) Launched

The Minister announced that the Government has officially issued an **Expression of Interest (EOI)** inviting **local and international investors** to establish pharmaceutical and health product manufacturing facilities in Tanzania.

The EOI aims to:

- Attract global and domestic investment
- Promote joint ventures and technology transfer
- Accelerate attainment of WHO-GMP and other global standards
- Serve Tanzania, East Africa, SADC, and the wider African market

The **EOI submission deadline is 2 March 2026**.

Message to Local Manufacturers and Importers

Minister Mchengewa called on local manufacturers to invest in quality, technology, and scale, emphasizing that Government support will be aligned with a clear and measurable pathway toward international standards.

“We will not protect production simply because it is local. We will protect production that meets global standards,” he said.

He also issued a firm warning against any deliberate attempts to sabotage or delay pharmaceutical industrialization for short-term commercial interests, underscoring that this agenda is a national priority.

For pharmaceutical importers, the Minister framed the reforms as an opportunity rather than a threat, encouraging them to transition into local manufacturing through partnerships, capital investment, and technology transfer.

“Industrialization is not a threat. It is an opportunity to secure the future of your business by controlling production, not just distribution,” he said.

Call to Investors and Financial Institutions

The Government extended a clear invitation to **international investors, development finance institutions, banks, pension funds, and insurers** to participate in Tanzania’s pharmaceutical manufacturing expansion.

Minister Mchengewa highlighted that pharmaceutical manufacturing represents a **long-term, stable investment** that combines commercial returns with national health security and economic resilience.

“Investing in pharmaceutical manufacturing is investing in public health, national stability, and sustainable economic growth,” he stated.

Looking Ahead

Concluding his address, Minister Mchengewa affirmed Tanzania’s readiness to emerge as a pharmaceutical manufacturing hub for Africa, supported by political commitment, policy clarity, and a growing regional market.

“The market exists. Demand is growing. Policy direction is clear. Tanzania is ready—and the time to act is now,” he concluded.

Issued by



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