

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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An Inquiry into the Consumer Awareness, Empowerment and Protection Systems

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**Written response on the recommendations of the 10<sup>th</sup> Report of the JSC on Finance  
and Legal Affairs on an Inquiry into Consumer Awareness, Empowerment and  
Protection Systems**

**September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

The objectives of this inquiry are as follows:

1. To assess the adequacy and effectiveness of existing consumer protection legislation and policies;
2. To evaluate the performance of consumer protection agencies managed or controlled by the state; and to
3. To determine the effectiveness of current provisions for consumer protection to vulnerable groups; primarily
  - i. Senior Citizens;
  - ii. Those of low literacy/education;
  - iii. Persons with Disabilities; and
  - iv. Rural populations.

**Objective 1: To assess the adequacy and effectiveness of existing consumer protection legislation and policies.**

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Based on the foregoing the Committee recommends that:**

**A. The MOH and CFDD in particular should consider the establishment of a complaints mechanism and/ or dedicated hotline to furnish the receipt and investigation of consumer complaints as it relates to food and drug items making spurious claims or of dubious quality;**

A complaint system already exists with a hotline (800-2333) that has been instituted to facilitate complaints. During fiscal year 2020, there were twenty-one (21) complaints with fifteen (15) complaints being resolved (72% resolution rate) and eight (8) complaints are still being investigated. Some the key complaints addressed through the hotline included:

- Unregistered products being sold;
- Foreign matter/s in foods;
- Expired Products;
- Labelling in foreign languages; and
- False labelling;.

**B. The CFDD should consider the development of an MOU between itself and the Pharmacy Board that is specific to initiating a process of reporting and information exchange as it relates to the regulation of products such as vaping products, CBD oils or its derivatives;**

The Ministry of Health has no objection to a MOU with the Pharmacy Board and will commence the discussion and consultations during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021.

- C. To optimise the staff of the CFDD who are assigned to the unfinished Food and Drug lab, some officers should be designated to assist with conducting Health Inspections particularly during the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic;**

The Ministry of Health is currently re-deploying the staff at the CFDD in its COVID-19 operations.

- D. The staff of the CFDD lab may also be engaged in the conduct of efficacy trials to ascertain the levels of application for the judicious use of pesticides;**

The CFDD, through the Pesticides Toxic Chemical Control Board, conducts the assessment, evaluation and approval of market authorization/registration for pesticides. However, the staff of the CFDD lab will have to be trained to conduct efficacy trials as it is not part of their function.

- E. The CAD must also hasten to action the following MOUs:**

- **The EMA- to clearly delineate the responsibilities and sphere of authority between the CAD and the EMA; and**
- **CFDD- to collaborate on enhancing the framework for consumer protection and improving communication between the CFDD and CAD, especially as it relates to the administration of CARREX and reporting of unsafe products.**

An MOU has been finalised and was sent to the Ministry of Trade and Industry for approval and signature. The MOU will enhance the collaboration and the way forward for consumer protection and improving communication between the CFDD and CAD, especially as it relates to the administration of CARREX and reporting of unsafe products.

- F. The Ministry of Health shall submit a status update on the reconstitution of the PTCCB. The development of regulations governing the use of pesticides on produce is contingent upon the reconstitution of the Board of the PTCCB. As such, the Ministry of Health should make this a priority.**

The PTCCB was reconstituted on April 1, 2020, it comprises twelve (12) members and five (5) alternates. A Legislative Review Sub-Committee of the PTCCB has been formed to review, amend and develop regulations governing the use of pesticides on produce.

**Objective 2: To Evaluate the Performance of Consumer Protection Agencies Managed or Controlled by The State**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Committee recommends that:**

- A. Given the serious implications on the health of the population, the MOH should exercise the full scope of penalties under the Food and Drug Act, including prosecutions via the Court to discipline business who have committed breaches.**

Any prosecutions under the Food and Drugs Act Chapter 30:01 are usually commenced/handled by the Office of the DPP. Under Section 30 of the Act, the DPP would use the reports of analysts from the Chemistry Food and Drugs Division as evidence of the statements contained therein.

During the period 2018 to 2020, seven (7) letters of breaches were sent to the Office of the DPP for its consideration. These letters are shown at Appendix 1.

**Objective 3: to determine the effectiveness of current provisions for consumer protection to vulnerable groups; primarily:**

- i. Senior Citizens;**
- ii. Those of low literacy/education;**
- iii. Persons with Disabilities; and**
- iv. Rural populations.**

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Committee recommends that:**

- A. The CAD, the Ministry of Health and other supporting stakeholders must rejuvenate their efforts to engender a greater consumer focused culture among the business community and the wider population. These efforts must involve an increase in the number of targeted outreach initiatives within the nations schools and communities.**

The CFDD continues to have outreach programmes and partner with schools, universities and other NGO's ((TTMA/Supermarket Association and the Pharmacy Society of T&T) to promote Food Safety Awareness; safe handling and usage of pesticides and safe use of drugs.



(165)

Appendix 1  
Appendix 1  
①

**Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago**  
**Ministry of Health**

**OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY**

T: (868)-627-0010/12/14 Ext: 1619 D: (868)-623-9119 F: (868)-623-9528  
e-mail: asif.ali@health.gov.tt

He: 6/3/12 Vol. I

**July 5, 2018**

Mr. Roger Gaspard S.C.  
Director of Public Prosecutions  
Winsure Building  
Richmond Street  
Port of Spain

Dear Sir

Re: Complaint regarding Dr. Trevor Sayers of Naturalized Herbs advertising the use of aerosol insecticide spray as a cure for conjunctivitis constituting a breach of the Food and Drugs Act Chapter 30:01 and Medical Board Act, Chapter 29:50

I refer to my letter to you dated October 5, 2017, re the captioned, a copy of which is hereto enclosed for your benefit.

Kindly advise of the status of this matter.

I thank you for your kind and urgent attention herein.

Sincerely

*Robert Karpud*  
.....  
/s/Permanent Secretary



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**Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago**

**Ministry of Health**

**OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY**

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He: 6/3/12 Vol. I

**July 5, 2018**

Mr. Roger Gaspard S.C.  
Director of Public Prosecutions  
Winsure Building  
Richmond Street  
Port of Spain

Dear Sir

Re: Complaint regarding naturalized Herbs and the breach of the Food and Drug Act, Chapter 30:01

Previous correspondence re the captioned matter refers, ending with my letter to you dated September 26, 2012, re same. Copies of the said correspondence are attached for your benefit.

The Ministry of Health notes that at present, the website *naturalizedherbs.com*, upon which was the alleged offences against the Food and Drugs Act, Chapter 30:01, were premised, appears to no longer be in existence.

Notwithstanding, the Ministry further notes that if the alleged offences under the Food and Drugs Act were laid indictably, then there is no limitation period for same.

As such I am to kindly request a status update of this matter.

I thank you for your kind and urgent attention herein.

Sincerely

*Asif Ali*

.....  
/s/Permanent Secretary



(5)

# MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

## OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

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File Ref: He/6/3/12

Vol. I

26<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Mr. Roger Gaspard SC  
Director of Public Prosecution  
Winsure Building  
Richmond Street  
Port of Spain

Dear Mr. Gaspard SC

**Re: Complaint regarding Naturalized Herbs and the breach of the Food  
and Drug Act Chapter 30:01**

I refer to my memorandum dated 6<sup>th</sup> August 2012 to your goodself, re the captioned.

Given the Ministry of Health's concern with individuals rejecting scientific medicine and adopting alternative or traditional medical options as a result of advertising, there is urgency to treat with the said matter as it presents a public health concern.

Therefore, I am humbly requesting an update and you are encouraged to contact the Ministry of Health for any assistance or further information in the above matter.

Thanking you for your usual cooperation.

Sincerely

*Shirley Kopeckant*

.....  
/f/Permanent Secretary



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH** Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

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6<sup>th</sup> August 2012

Mr. Roger Gaspard SC  
Director of Public Prosecutions  
Winsure Building  
Richmond Street  
Port of Spain

Dear Mr. Gaspard

**Re: Complaint regarding Naturalized Herbs and the breach of the Food and Drug Act Chapter 30:01**

The matter at caption refers.

I wish to draw to your attention the current actions of a company known as Naturalized Herbs constituting an apparent criminal breach with respect to the Food and Drug Act Chapter 30:01 (referred to herein as "the Act").

The Act defines "drug" to include any substance or mixture of substances manufactured, sold or represented for use in the diagnosis, treatment, mitigation or prevention of a disease, disorder, abnormal physical state, or the symptoms thereof, in man or animal; or restoring, correcting or modifying organic functions in man or animal.

Therefore if a product is represented for the use in the treatment or prevention of a disease, disorder, abnormal physical state in man or in correcting the organic functions in man then this qualifies as a "drug" under the Act.

Naturalized Herbs is a business which appears to have a website named [www.naturalizedherbs.com](http://www.naturalizedherbs.com) and which operates in nine locations in Trinidad according to their website.

The product webpage for "male products" accessed at <http://www.naturalizedherbs.com/NH%20men.htm> on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012, a printout of the

[www.health.gov.tt](http://www.health.gov.tt)

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## MINISTRY OF HEALTH Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

webpage which is attached, advertises several products which claim to "fight all male problems: Pre-ejaculation, Impotency, Rectile [*sic*] dysfunction...sperm count." This is with particular respect to the Male Power Powder offered on the page and several other products on the webpage also make claims that may be interpreted as a treatment for impotency.

It is submitted that herbal remedies being offered by Naturalized Herbs as advertised on their website and which are being represented as being able to treat bodily illnesses, are "drugs" for the purposes of the Act.

It is prohibited under section 4(1) of the Act for any person who advertises any drug to the general public as a treatment, preventative or cure for any of the diseases, disorders or abnormal physical states mentioned in the First Schedule. A breach of this prohibition is a criminal offence.

Further the Act prohibits, under section 4(2), any person who sells any drug that is represented by label or that he advertises to the general public, as a treatment, preventative or cure for any of the diseases, disorders or abnormal physical states mentioned in the First Schedule. A breach of this prohibition is a criminal offence.

Under the First Schedule of the Act, sexual impotence is named as a prohibited condition of which you are prohibited to advertise a cure.

Under the Act, "advertisement" is defined as including any representation by any means whatever for the purpose of promoting directly or indirectly the sale or disposal of any drug.

The webpage which displays the various products is accessed by clicking the "Products" tab at the top of the home page and then clicking the "male products" link under the heading "Select a product:".

The subsequent page then displays the product name and a minute picture of what appears to be a label of the said product. Clicking on the picture brings up an enlarged "jpeg" image of the label. Below each product description is a tab marked "Add to Cart". Clicking on this tab sends you to a site operated by *Paypal* which allows you to purchase the particular product with a credit card number.

It is submitted that these facts taken together constitutes representations for the purpose of promoting directly the sale of products contrary to section 4 and that it constitutes prohibited advertising.



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH** Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Therefore I am forwarding this information for your guidance on the way forward.

Sincerely

*APopplewell*

.....  
Antonia Popplewell  
Permanent Secretary

# Naturalized Herbs

Natural herbal cures for all illnesses

[home](#) [products](#) [contact](#) [links](#)



My Long Hard Wood \$  
50.00 USD-100QTY

A special bioflavonoid found safe for diabetics & heart pressure cases, No prescription, rock erection, enlargement, harder, longer penis, longer sex. 3 months for great response

PayPal - The safer, easier way



Male Power Powder \$  
33.00 USD

Fights all male problems: Pre-ejaculation, Impotency, Rectile Dysfunction, Low Stamina, Low Sperm Count

PayPal - The safer, easier way



The Erect Instant Pill  
\$5.00 USD (minimum order 20)

Stimulates sexual hormones and boost testosterone and prostate

Quantity

Minimum Order = 20 \$100.00

PayPal - The safer, easier way



Pro Plus \$50.00  
USD-100QTY

Doctor approved pill will enlarge your penis. No prescription and you will have harder and longer erections. Just imagine how your woman will gasp with delight the first time she sees how thick, long and hard you are and when she feels the pressure of a longer sexual enhancer

PayPal - The safer, easier way



Dragon Life \$42.00  
USD-50QTY

Helps boost quick, rock-hard erections. Safe for people with heart problems, High blood pressure and diabetes

PayPal - The safer, easier way



Male Erect-Drink \$9.00 US  
(liquid form for Trinidad and Tobago orders only and powdered form international orders)

Used to help boost erection, builds the testosterone level can be used as a male dietary supplement

Type

Powder \$9.00

PayPal - The safer, easier way

# Naturalized Herbs natural herbal cures

## NATURALIZED HERBS Employment

home products about us links

we have a wide range of Naturalized Herbs® herbal products that can be used to treat almost all body illnesses. For more information on our products...

home p

Finally we are rated #1 for our high quality and consistency with curing and repairing muscle tissues, tumours, fibroids, liver, heart and cells. We are very vibrant in our approach when dealing with arthritis, cancer, lung disease, impotency, menopause, tuberculosis, asthma, stroke, fertility, pre-eclampsia, menstrual problems, inflammation, stress and obesity.

### READY TO TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR LIFE?

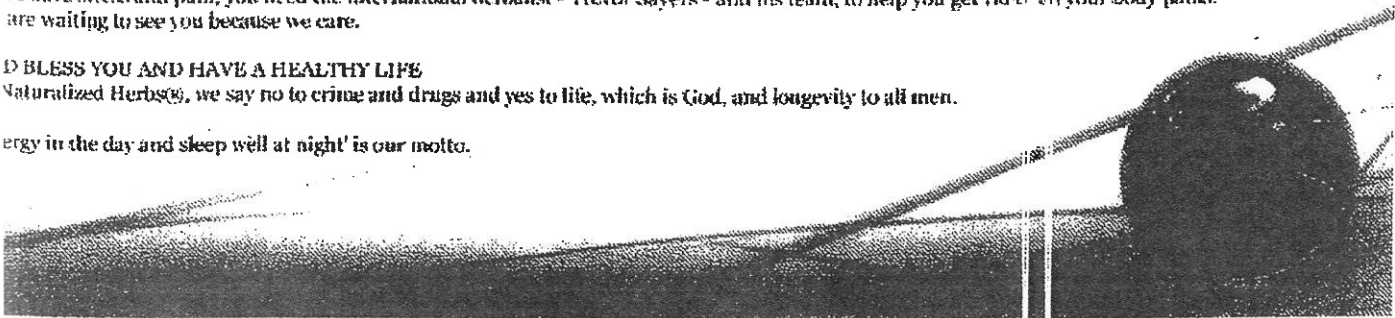
Are you really fed-up of body illnesses, pain and more pain, medication and more medication - which only contain drugs? Drugs already destroy the world. We can stop the destruction by starting with you. When you tell a friend about Naturalized Herbs® and they use it like you, and another and another, drugs will never have its way again in your life and many other people's lives. For all human beings we can give life - extended life - through the will of God who created all things by showing everyone that natural herbs are the way to longevity.

### CARE WHAT WE EAT

If we eat poison, we will be poisoned.  
 Don't you know that certain foods poison you?  
 For example, if you suffer from high blood pressure - no salt.  
 If you have diabetes - no sugar.  
 If you have arteriosclerosis - no animal fat.  
 If you have stress and pain, you need the international herbalist - Trevor Sayers - and his team, to help you get rid of all your body pains. We are waiting to see you because we care.

### God BLESS YOU AND HAVE A HEALTHY LIFE

Naturalized Herbs®, we say no to crime and drugs and yes to life, which is God, and longevity to all men. 'Energy in the day and sleep well at night' is our motto.



NATURALIZED HERBS  
Employment

NATURALIZED HERBS  
Online Store



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Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

## Ministry of Health

OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

63 Park Street, Port of Spain

He: 6/3/3 Vol. VI

October 9, 2019

Mr. Roger Gaspard S.C.  
Director of Public Prosecutions  
Winsure Building  
Richmond Street  
Port of Spain

Dear Sir

**Re: Complaint regarding N-Cort and a breach of the Food and Drugs Act, Chapter 30:01**

The matter at caption refers.

Clause 2(1) of Division 3 of the Second Schedule of the Food and Drugs Regulations made pursuant to the Food and Drugs Act, Chapter 30:01, provides as follows:

- (1) No person shall import, sell or advertise for sale a new drug unless—
- (a) the manufacturer or importer has filed with the Minister in duplicate, a new drug submission in Form C in the Third Schedule in respect of that drug, and paid to the Comptroller of Accounts the non-refundable registration fee specified in Form E in the Third Schedule for the registration of the new drug; and
  - (b) the Minister has issued to the manufacturer or importer, a notice of approval in respect of the new drug, and the approval has not been withdrawn.

The Ministry of Health received an anonymous complaint (exact regarding the use of N-CORT in the private health sector) which drug was not registered for use in Trinidad and Tobago as required by the Food and Drugs Act. The MoH's Chemistry Food and Drugs Department conducted its investigations into the matter and attached hereto is the sequence of events that transpired and the MoH's preliminary findings regarding same.



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Ext. 1619, 1620



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As such, it is the MoH's respectful submission that N-CORT, being a new drug, may not be imported into Trinidad and Tobago without the Minister of Health's Notice of Approval issued pursuant to the Act and default of this would suffice to satisfy the commission of an offence under same.

In this regard, it is material to note that Sections 33 and 34 of the Act provide as follows:

33. Every person who commits an offence under this Act is liable—

(a) on summary conviction for a first offence to a fine of one thousand five hundred dollars and to imprisonment for three months, and for a subsequent offence to a fine of three thousand

dollars and imprisonment for six months; and

(b) on conviction on indictment to a fine of fifteen thousand dollars and to imprisonment for three years.

34. A prosecution under section 33(a) may be instituted at any time within twelve months from the time the subject matter of the prosecution arose.

You will appreciate that the matter is serious and one that involves public health and safety. As such, your guidance as to the way forward on the matter and specifically in relation to the prosecution of same, whether summarily or indictably.

I thank you for your kind and urgent attention herein.

Sincerely



Asif Ali

Permanent Secretary (Ag.)

PERMANENT SECRETARY  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH





Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
**Ministry of Health**

CHEMISTRY FOOD AND DRUGS DIVISION  
#92 Frederick Street, Port of Spain

**MEMORANDUM**



**From:** Imtiaz Hyder Ali, Food and Drugs Inspector I  
**To:** Wendyann Ramrattan, Chief Chemist and Director of Food and Drugs (Ag.)  
**Date:** December 13, 2019  
**Subject:** **Counterfeit Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Inspection in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (Chaguanas C.I.D.)**

I will like to bring to your attention the following:

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 at approximately 3:30p.m. Superintendent Wayne Myster of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service contacted the Chemistry, Food and Drugs Division seeking assistance. Ms. Vashael Dadbahal took the message and informed myself of the assistance of Superintendent Wayne Myster.

I called Superintendent Wayne Myster to enquire the nature of the assistance that was required by the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service. Superintendent Myster indicated the nature of the assistance was to facilitate a Trinidad and Tobago Police Service Raid on suspected Counterfeit **Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Compounds in the Chaguanas Borough**. I informed Superintendent Myster that the request would have to be done via Ms. Wendyann Ramrattan, the Chief Chemist and Director of Food and Drugs (Ag.). I called Ms. Ramrattan and relayed the said message. Ms. Ramrattan, after speaking with Superintendent Myster, gave permission for the collaboration with the Chemistry, Food and Drugs Division; Food and Drugs Inspector Imtiaz Hyder Ali and the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service. (Ms. Ramrattan had seek my voluntary service for said collaboration to which I agreed.)

I met Superintendent Myster at the Chaguanas Police Station at approximately 6:28pm, and I was introduced to the Investigating Officer, Mr. Phillips of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service. Officer Phillips indicated that they have in custody three (3) persons in connection with the counterfeiting pharmaceutical ring. Additionally there are four (4) suspected counterfeit pharmaceutical manufacturing compounds/facilities to be raided.



1(868) 623-5242

1(868) 623-5242/1914



1(868) 623-2477



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Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
**Ministry of Health**

CHEMISTRY FOOD AND DRUGS DIVISION  
#92 Frederick Street, Port of Spain

**MEMORANDUM**

**From:** Farz Khan  
Chief Chemist and Director of Food and Drugs

**To:** Legal Advisor  
Ministry of Health

**Subject:** Chief Medical Officer  
Ministry of Health

**Date:** March 12, 2020

**Subject:** Seized Pharmaceutical by the Chaguanas Police Station



A verbal report from Superintendent Wayne Mystar of Trinidad and Tobago Police Service received by Chemistry, Food and Drugs Division on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 concerning the manufacturing of suspected counterfeit pharmaceutical at the following locations:

1. Brentwood Courts - Chaguanas
2. Gaston Street, Chaguanas - Trinidad Pharma Import Limited
3. Carapichima

Equipment for mixing and filling capsules and expired pharmaceutical were found in the said premises. All equipment and pharmaceuticals were seized by the Trinidad and Tobago Police Services. During the period 13<sup>th</sup> December to 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2019 Food and Drugs Inspectors examined, sorted and catalogued all pharmaceuticals seized by the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service. An assessment and examination was done to verify the registration status of the pharmaceuticals seized by the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service. Following that assessment, the listed drugs were deemed to be unregistered in accordance with Division 3 - New Drugs (Food and Drugs Act and Regulation Chapter 30:01);

- Amazing Health Dietary Supplement
- Doctor's Choice Dietary Supplement
- Sum Health Dietary Supplement
- Sanatogen Dietary Supplement



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Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
**Ministry of Health**

CHEMISTRY FOOD AND DRUGS DIVISION  
#92 Frederick Street, Port of Spain

**MEMORANDUM**

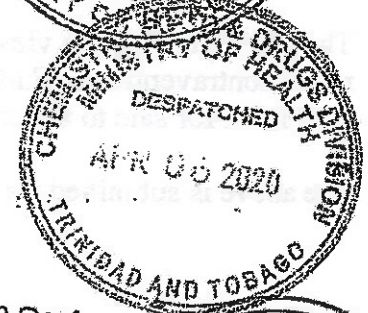
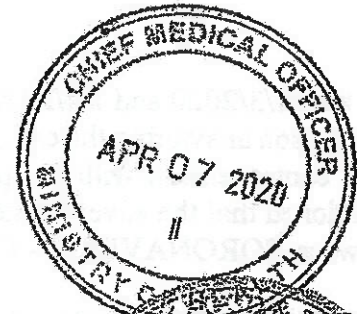
**From:** Farz Khan  
Chief Chemist and Director Food and Drugs

**To:** Mr. R. Rampersad  
Legal Advisor  
Ministry of Health

**ufs:** Dr. Roshan Parasram  
Chief Medical Officer

**Date:** April 1, 2020

**Subject:** Advertisement for Sale of Never Sick - Colloidal Silver



*Handwritten signatures and initials*

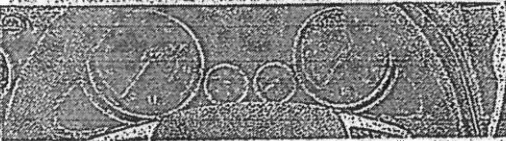


The following advertisement was published in the Trinidad Guardian Newspaper on March 31, 2020.  
After reviewing the advertisement, the following advertising contravention to the Food and Drugs Act were noted:

**DIVISION 3 - NEW DRUGS**

- 2. (1) No person shall import, sell or advertise for sale a new drug unless; -
  - (a) the manufacturer or importer has filed with the Minister in duplicate, a new drug submission in Form C in the Third Schedule in respect of that drug, and paid to the Comptroller of Accounts the non-refundable registration fee specified in Form E in the Third Schedule for the registration of the new drug, and
  - (b) the Minister has issued to the manufacturer or importer, a notice of approval in respect of the new drug, and the approval has not been withdrawn.
- 4. (c) Except as prescribed or exempted by Regulations, any person who advertises any food, drug, cosmetic or device to the general public as a treatment, preventative or cure for any of the diseases, disorders or abnormal physical states mentioned in the First Schedule, is guilty of an offence.

56 classifieds



# Vehicles

FOR MORE DETAILS CHECK ONLINE @ GUA

Health Service

## CORONAVIRUS - Covid19

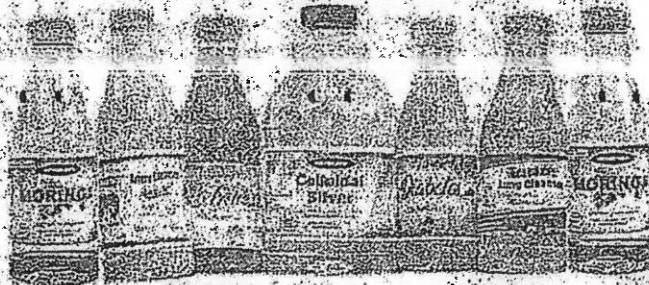
*Prevention is cheaper than cure*

Boost and build up a very strong immune system  
with the best natural liquid mineral

**Never Sick<sup>®</sup>**

## COLLOIDAL SILVER

Tested to kill more than 650 deadly VIRUSES,  
it has no side effects.

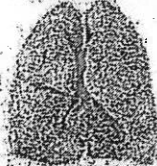


BEFORE

AFTER

BEFORE

AFTER



FLUSH OUT ATERIES CLEANSER

SMOKERS LUNG CLEANSER

MORINGA LIVER DETOXER

GOOD BYE DIABETES AND GOOD BYE ARTHRITIS

These products are not food or drugs but a unique technology  
consisting of edible herbal roots energized in electrified mineral liquid.  
It has no side effects. Available at all leading pharmacies nationwide.  
For wholesale and retail, free home delivery service:

Call 868 707-2271

Manufactured by WELL CARE

A Pharmacy In A Bottle



(7)

Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

**Ministry of Health**

LEGAL SERVICES

#63 Park Street, Port of Spain

He: 6/3/3 Vol. VI

**June 25, 2020**

Mr. Roger Garpard  
Director of Public Prosecutions  
Winsure Building  
24-28 Richmond Street  
Port-of Spain  
Trinidad

Dear Sir

**Re: Apparent Breach of the Food & Drug Act Chapter 30:01**

Please find enclosed the following matter which appear to be in breach of the Food & Drug Act Chapter 30:01.

Thank you.

Sincerely

  
.....  
Marsha Connell, State Counsel II (Ag.)  
/f/Permanent Secretary (Ag.)

  
.....  
Chief Chemist and Director of Food and Drugs



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

## Ministry of Health

CHEMISTRY FOOD AND DRUGS DIVISION

#92 Frederick Street, Port of Spain

**From:** K. David and K. Singh  
Food and Drugs Inspector I

**To:** Farz Khan  
Director

**Date:** January 29, 2020

**Subject:** Report on CoDecc Pharmacy Limited (CDL #25/20)



On January 28, 2020, Inspectors Kamelia David and Kaavita Singh visited CoDecc Pharmacy Limited, Eastern Main Road, Curepe to verify if some pharmaceuticals contained English labels since, based on reports, there are unregistered Turkish products on the market, as well as to ensure that unregistered drugs were not being offered for sale as part of a surveillance programme by the Drug Registration Unit (CFDD).

Upon arrival at the pharmacy, we informed the cashier that we were from the Ministry of Health and asked to speak to the pharmacist after showing her the identification badge. The cashier was informed that it was not for controlled drugs but for other Third Schedule Drugs. After making a phone call, the cashier told us to hold on, that the pharmacist was on his way.

About a minute later, Mr. Courtney Augustine approached us and asked us what the issue was. We informed the pharmacist that we were from Chemistry Food and Drugs, Ministry of Health, showed identification, and said that we would like to take a look at a few items. Mr. Augustine then proceeded behind the counter. We requested to take a look at the Nexium. He took it off the shelf and left it on the counter out of reach. He asked for a name and the work identification badge was shown and the name provided. He asked for a picture of the ID, while holding his phone up, and said that he wanted to know who he was dealing with.

Mr. Augustine was informed that he had the name and that he could be provided with the telephone number for the office. He said that he already had the office number, that he had called yesterday and that we were victimizing him by showing up today. He was informed that we were not there for a controlled drug inspection, and that it was to check on some labels. He said that it does not work like that, and he has to get a picture or else we could not proceed. At



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1(868) 623-5242 Ext. 1202



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