



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO ALL MEDIA HOUSES

JANUARY 12, 2018

NBA APPROVES CIDRZ HIV VACCINE TRIALS AND MACHA'S MALARIA CONTROL RESEARCH APPLICATIONS

LUSAKA, ZAMBIA-The National Biosafety Authority (NBA) has approved two applications on HIV vaccine trials and Malaria control for the Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ) and Macha Research Trust respectively.

The CIDRZ permit is for conducting research trials on the safety and immunogenicity of HVTN 120/ALVAC and will be conducted in Lusaka while the malaria control will be done at Macha Research Trust, Choma in Southern Province.

NBA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mr Lackson Tonga said the approval of the Permits follows the two applicants meeting the required set standards.

“CIDRZ’s Phase 1/2a clinical trial will evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of ALVAC-HIV (vCP2438) genetically modified vaccine in healthy HIV-uninfected adult participants. The permit has been awarded after the organization met the requirements in accordance with Section 18 of the Biosafety Act No. 7 of 2007,” he said.

“The NBA Board, during the 4th quarter meeting for the year 2017, approved the permit application for CIDRZ. The vaccine trials will be conducted in Matero, Lusaka and the permit is valid for three years.”

The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of the NBA earlier considered the CIDRZ application to conduct research on an ALVAC –HIV vaccine. The SAC in August last year was satisfied after further reviewing the application and found it to have met the expected safety threshold and other requirements from collaborating partners such as Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority and the Biomedical Research Ethics Committee.

“Macha Research Trust permit on Malaria control prospects with engineered symbiotic bacteria (a non-pathogenic *Serratia Sp* bacteria) from vector mosquitoes has also been approved and is due to

start the research in the first half of 2018,” Mr. Tonga explained. “The research will be carried out in a contained facility at the Research Trust.”

And Mr. Tonga said the Authority had reviewed all applications it had received in 2017 and those that met the required guidelines and standards had been issued with permits while others had been requested to submit further details in order to allow for a thorough risk assessment process.

-Ends-

About NBA

NBA was established under the Biosafety Act No. 10 of 2007. Through the Act the NBA regulates the research, development, application, importation, export, transit, contained use, release or placing on the market of any GMO whether intended for use as a pharmaceutical, food, feed or processing, or a product of a GMO also to ensure that any activity involving the use or a product of GMO prevents any socio-economic impact or harm to human, animal health and the environment in the country.

Some of the functions of the NBA include processing notifications and applications of GMOs or products of GMOs into the country, in accordance with the requirements of the Biosafety Act, promoting public awareness and education concerning the activities regulated under the Act such as risk assessment, risk management and authorization processes; keeping any GMO or any product of a genetically modified organism under review and to ban its handling or release in Zambia. NBA furthermore, establishes and maintains a database of GMOs and their products as well as making available such information to the public.

For more information about NBA visit: www.nbazambia.org.zm

For inquiries Contact: Sandra Lombe-Mulowa

Communications Officer

Email: nbacomcommunications1@yahoo.com or lombe2@gmail.com

+260 211 278316 /0977854716/ 0961439503