MINISTRY OF HEALTH

THE NATIONAL DRUG POLICY FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA

DEVELOPED BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH
AND
APPROVED BY THE
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FOREWORD

The public health system in Papua New Guinea has been experiencing difficulties over the years in maintaining an effective medical supplies and distribution system, due primarily to a lack of a clear policy direction in the pharmaceutical sub-sector.

Our public health facilities such as hospital, clinics, health centres and village health posts have continuously experienced stock-outs of basic medical supplies and drugs. Rural Health Facilities in particular have been faced with great difficulties in maintaining access to all essential drugs and other medical supplies.

The main constraining factor has been the absence of a national policy on medicinal drugs and supplies. I am more than confident that this first National Drug Policy for the country will go a long way towards improving the current supply, distribution and management of medical supplies across the nation.

This policy framework is the blueprint of attaining effective supply, distribution, utilisation and administration of drugs and medical supplies in Papua New Guinea.

The policy embraces our vision for achieving overall improvement in the health status of our people. Through the availability and rational use of safe, effective, good quality and affordable drugs, we can be sure of tackling the major diseases and health concerns. We must have in place a reliable and efficient pharmaceutical supply and distribution network in the country to support our public health facilities.

This policy document outlines nine specific objectives of the National Drug Policy. They must be implemented, if improvements in the pharmaceutical sub-sector are to be realized.

In the broadest sense, the National Drug Policy will provide an avenue to make drugs available and affordable to all those who need them, ensure safety, efficacy and quality of drugs, and promote rational use of drugs by both prescribers and consumers.

I commend the National Drug Policy for Papua New Guinea.

HONOURABLE LUDGER MOND MP
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T

The publication of the National Drug Policy document is very timely, being at a period of rapid development in the pharmaceutical industry in the public and private sectors, and at a time of severe financial constraints particularly in terms of the funds available for purchase of drugs and medical supplies.

The policy itself is very comprehensive and I commend all those involved in the production of this policy. It is the result of collaboration of many individuals and organizations who contributed through their participation in workshops and working groups. To all of them both in the private and public sectors, a special word of appreciation and acknowledgement is made.

Further the Department wishes to extend its appreciation and gratitude to World Health Organization (WHO) for its advice and technical assistance in the development of this Policy Document.

Special thanks also go to the Pharmaceutical Services section which provided all the secretarial services to the development of the policy. Many people have helped in the preparation of this document including Ms Pou Haro of the Secretary's Office who did the final formatting and designed the cover. It is not possible to mention all their names, but I would like to thank them all for their assistance.

In acknowledging the efforts of all who have contributed, I commend the National Drug Policy for Papua New Guinea.

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PUKA I. TEMU (DR)

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Papua New Guinea is committed to the development of health services in the country through the Promotive and Preventive Health Care approach. One of the major component of this is to ensure the availability of essential drugs to the population.

It is the main objective of the National Drug Policy to improve the Health of the people of Papua New Guinea by Preventing and Treating diseases through the availability and rational use of safe, effective, good quality and affordable drugs.

At independence in 1975 Papua New Guinea population was about 1.5 million. The resources available at that time were adequate to fund a free drug supply system in the public sector.

Twenty years later the population has trebled. Our health institutions have expanded in size, numbers and complexity. Appreciation of the effectiveness of modern medicine has grown and, with it, the demand for public health services and indeed also for pharmaceuticals. New diseases have appeared, creating demand for additional and more specialized medicines.

Since 1950 Papua New Guinea has succeeded in developing, maintaining and financing a pharmaceutical supply system which provides continuous access to a limited range of essential drugs, of acceptable quality and at reasonable cost, tailored to each level of health care.

Papua New Guinea is indeed a pioneer in the selection of a limited number of drugs, according to medical needs, a pioneer in devising lists according to the skills of health workers as well as enforcing a system of standard treatment schedules, and a pioneer in consolidating national drug procurement and in obtaining low prices for all its public sector needs of essential generic drugs.

Within this background, it is fitting that Papua New Guinea now consolidate its experiences in the field of essential drugs through a National Drug Policy, which can serve as the guiding document for legislative reforms, staff development and management improvements. With these reforms Papua New Guinea will be able to control and regulate the availability, quality, safety and rational use of drugs.

Papua New Guinea has never before had a policy of such nature on medicinal drugs. The absence of a clear Policy has resulted in the uncontrolled and unregulated importation of medicinal drugs and medical supplies with the exception of narcotics.

This policy provides for a regulated importation & control over all drugs and medical supplies through registration and monitoring.

This Policy document is organized into three PARTS.

Part I is the preamble, which provides the background, rationale and summarizes the Priorities and the Objectives of the Policy.

The Priorities of the National Drug Policy are:

- **Maintain a continuous and adequate supply & inventory of drugs and basic equipment to sustain service demand at all levels of Health Care Facilities**
- **Improve Administration and Management at all levels**
- **Accord particular attention to Rural Health Services**

Part II is the main section of the Policy document, detailing out the main policies relating to the key areas and defines the strategies.

Emphasis is placed on the following Key areas:

- **Drug Availability**
- **Drug Safety**
- **Drug Efficacy**
- **Drug Affordability**
- **Rational Use Of Drugs**
- **Human Resource Development**

Part III address the Administrative Management Issues clarifying Functions; structure and the need for ongoing Research, Monitoring and Evaluation, legislative reviews and the approaches required for the successful implementation of the National Drug Policy.

The National Drug Policy for PNG is indeed a ROADMAP for action towards achieving the goal of improving the health of our people. The Policy provides a useful directory for coordinated activities in the pharmaceutical sector, involving the public and private sectors as well as non-government organizations.

Above all it provides the framework within which essential drugs of acceptable quality, safety and efficacy will be made accessible to those who need them at prices they can afford.

The main approaches for implementation of this policy will require partnership among major Health care providers, increased coordination within the Health Sector, Intersectoral cooperation among Public Sector organizations, increased responsibility to local level authorities, and Technical cooperation with other countries and International agencies.

PART 1– PREAMBLE
CHAPTER 1

THE BASES FOR THE POLICY

Section 1 – Introduction

It is most timely that Papua New Guinea should have a National Drug Policy, given the prevailing economic situation, the changing patterns of disease and resistance and the unprecedented advances and growth in the Pharmaceutical Industry.

The development of this policy, and its implementation, calls for a collaboration effort on the part of all stake holders as the Nation makes a commitment by making available, easily affordable, safe, effective and good quality drugs and promote rational use of drugs by both prescribers and consumers alike.

The commitment towards the realisation of this policy, and its sustainability rests squarely on the proper training of the Health Workforce, and the availability of minimum levels of funding.

The need for continuous monitoring and evaluation cannot be over emphasised, if we are to keep abreast of the fast expanding pharmaceutical industry, the changing pattern of disease and the occurrence of drug resistance.

This calls for Partnership, increased coordination, Intersectoral corporation, community participation and technical collaboration.

Section 2 – The Constitution

The National Constitution is the guiding principle for the aspirations and visions of the people of Papua New Guinea. The National Goals and Directive Principles as set out in the Constitution provide the basis for the National Drug Policy. Formulation of the policy is guided by and draws strength from the First Goal which states:

> "for every person to be dynamically involved in the process of freeing himself or herself from every form of domination or oppression so that each man or woman will have the opportunity to develop as a whole person in relationship with others"

Further the Constitution calls for:

" improvement in the level of nutrition and the standard of public health to enable our people to attain self fulfilment."

Section 3 – Priorities & Rationale

The Policy Priority Areas requiring attention for the public health system are to:

- **Maintain a continuous and adequate supply and inventory of drugs and basic equipment to sustain service demand at all levels of health care facilities;**
- **Improve administration and management of drugs at all levels; and**
- **Accord particular attention to rural health services.**

The procurement, storage and distribution of drugs, medical supplies and equipment to government and church health facilities throughout Papua New Guinea is a function of the National Government. It is also responsible for the effective administration of legislation and policies to control poisons and dangerous substances, therapeutic standards and the practice of pharmacy.

The purchase of quality drugs and supplies takes into account the effectiveness and safety of drugs, manufacturing standards, cost, and the availability of funds as well as the needs of health services.

The range of supplies is dependent on the level of facility and established standard treatment regime. A Medical Stores Catalogue details all items held in the Area Medical Stores and defines the qualification of health personnel allowed to prescribe them. Procedures exist to limit the purchase of non-catalogue items to well justified and special circumstances.

CHAPTER 2

OBJECTIVES

Section: 1 – Main Objective

The main objective of this Policy is to:

Improve the health of the people of Papua New Guinea by preventing and treating diseases through the availability and rational use of safe, effective, good quality and affordable drugs"

Section: 2 – Supportive Objectives

To guarantee attention and maintain focus, the following supportive objectives are established. These are to:

2.1 Ensure the availability of essential drugs through the public health care system to the entire population of the country at all times.

2.2 Ensure that available drugs are safe, efficacious and of acceptable quality.

2.3 Ensure that essential drugs are affordable to all those who need them.

2.4 Develop human resources to support the successful implementation of the policy.

2.5 Promote the rational prescribing and dispensing of drugs by the health personnel and the appropriate use of drugs by the patients.

2.6 Develop capacity in the Department of Health for the effective implementation of the National Drug Policy.

2.7 Promote and monitor research that will facilitate the implementation of the National Drug Policy.

2.8 Monitor and evaluate regularly the performance and achievements of the National Drug Policy.

2.9 Ensure full implementation of the National Drug Policy through updating of legislation.

PART II – POLICY AND STRATEGIES

CHAPTER 3

DRUG AVAILABILITY

The aim of the policy is to ensure the availability of essential drugs through the public health care system to the entire population of the country at all times.

This will be achieved through a careful selection of the drugs, improvement of the procurement, distribution and storage and secured and regular funding.

Section: 1 - Drug Selection

The aim of the policy is to ensure that the selection of drugs to be included in the Medical Store Catalogue will continue to be based on the concept of essential drugs.

The number of drugs included in the Catalogue will be kept relatively small, while new drugs will only be introduced if they offer proven advantage over existing ones.

The Catalogue, which serves as a national essential drugs list, will continue to be used as a basis for procurement and use of drugs in all the health facilities in the public sector. The principle of listing of essential drugs by level of use and availability of trained human resources will be maintained and expanded to all levels.

The purchase and use of drugs which are not in the Catalogue by health facilities will be carefully controlled and monitored.

The selection of drugs and the update of the Catalogue will be carried out by the Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee, based on strict criteria set up in consultation with the committees for standard treatment guidelines.

The Catalogue will be reviewed regularly and distributed widely.

Section: 2 - Drug Procurement

The aim of the policy is to maintain and improve a system which will secure both the necessary quantity and quality of the pharmaceutical products for the health facilities at the best possible prices.

Drug procurement will be limited to drugs from the catalogue and when the drug registration is in place, to drugs registered in Papua New Guinea

Drugs will continue to be procured by generic names.

Procurement will aim at obtaining the lowest prices for products of acceptable quality, through careful monitoring and comparisons of international prices.

While alternative procurement procedures will continue to be pursued including the possible creation of a semi autonomous body for drug supply, the public sector procurement system will be strengthened and made more efficient, through appropriate legislation, sufficient and regular funding, adequate staffing and improved management.

An integrated information system will be developed to record drug use by health facilities at all levels in order to improve the forecasting of annual needs and management of drugs.

In order to secure regular supplies at low price, funds shall be made available to the Pharmaceutical Services Section once the budget has been approved by Parliament. The Department of Health will therefore review with Department of Treasury and Corporate Affairs the possibility of amending the Public Finances Management Act.

Section: 3 - Storage and Inventory Management

The aim of the policy is to maintain the quality of drugs, to ensure availability and to minimize wastage.

Existing storage facilities will be upgraded to meet minimum requirements. Additional storage facilities will be established in provincial capitals where no such facilities are available.

The Department of Health in collaboration with other Agencies will develop practical guidelines on good management of drugs which will cover ordering procedures, inventory control, good storage practices, estimation of requirements based on consumption and morbidity data for use at different levels of the health care system.

Pre-service training for the various health cadres will include subjects related to management of drugs.

In-service training and supervision of staff at the different levels of the health care system will also cover drug management issues.

Pre-service and in-service training will be organised in close coordination with the professional associations, the Universities, the Schools of Nursing and other Health Training Institutions.

Section: 4 - Distribution

The aim of the policy is to ensure that essential drugs are efficiently distributed to all health facilities including the remotest ones.

Distribution from central to provincial level will be privatised. Provincial and district administrations will be responsible for the distribution of drugs and medical supplies from the provincial headquarters to health centres and aid posts.

Department of Health will support provincial and district authorities in developing distribution plans from provincial level to the remote health facilities taking into account the specific conditions of each province.

Provincial hospitals will supervise and monitor the distribution and use of drugs and medical supplies as part of their support to rural health services.

Nominal budget for drugs will be allocated, according to level of health services, population, morbidity patterns and priority health interventions to each province and public hospital; which will be made accountable.

Communication between the different levels of the public health care system will be improved through increased use of radio, telephone and other affordable means of communication.

Section: 5 - Local Production

The aim of the policy is to promote and encourage, local production of a limited range of generic, good quality, essential drugs at low cost in order to increase self reliance.

Department of Health will set up criteria for Good Manufacturing Practices for hospital-based and private production and ensure adherence to these.

Section: 6 - Disposal of Expired and Unwanted Drugs

The aim of the policy is to ensure that drugs are disposed safely of in order to minimise hazard to community and the environment.

Department of Health will establish a central incinerator for proper disposal of pharmaceutical products and medical supplies in Lae and Port Moresby.

Department of Health in collaboration with Department of Environment and Conservation will develop guidelines on safe disposal of expired or unwanted drugs and medical supplies in public and private sectors.

Department of Health will promote through public education the correct and safe disposal of expired and unwanted drugs.

Section: 7 - Financial Resources.

The aim of the policy is to ensure that sufficient funding is available for procuring and distributing adequate quantities of essential drugs.

The Government will continue to be committed to provide funds for essential drugs through the annual budget and increase them according to population growth, morbidity and Mortality Trends and market forces.

The Government will make every effort to expedite the release of funds when required which may need changes in its procedures.

A National Department of Health Pharmaceutical Trust Account will be established for timely procurement and distribution of medical supplies. It will also enable hospitals and provinces to purchase medical supplies through the Department of Health with the revenues they generate.

Provincial and district authorities shall allocate sufficient funds for distribution of medical supplies within their province, based on approved distribution plans.

CHAPTER 4

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The aim of the policy is to ensure that drugs reaching the patient are safe, efficacious and of acceptable quality.

The aim will be achieved through updating legislation and regulations, registering drugs, licensing of pharmaceutical establishments, inspections, improving procurement methods and promoting other quality assurance activities.

Section : 1 - Registration of Drugs

The aim of the policy is to ensure that only drugs registered by Department of Health will be permitted for import, export, production, wholesale, retail, prescription and dispensing.

Legislation and Regulations will be developed to effect the establishment of a drug registration system.

Drugs will be registered according to defined criteria such as quality, safety, efficacy and affordability. Additional criteria for drug registration such as price of drugs may be identified as required.

The Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee will assist Department of Health in evaluating drugs for registration. Evaluation from other countries can be accepted after careful assessment.

Section: 2 - Licensing of Pharmaceutical Establishments

The aim of the policy is to ensure that only establishments that are licensed will be used for import, export, production, wholesale and retail of drugs.

Regulations will be prepared to specify minimum requirements for each type of establishment such as; space, temperature, humidity, staffing and location.

Licenses will be reviewed every year and license fees will set up by the Government.

Granting and renewal of licenses will be provided only after all requirements have been fulfilled.

Section: 3 - Inspection

The aim of the policy is to create an inspection service, which will ensure that the policy is enforced in all aspects, and at all levels of the drug supply system.

The Department of Health will establish an inspection unit which will perform core functions of inspection.

The legislation will be reviewed to provide the inspectors with the legal power to enforce the law.

Training programmes will be developed in collaboration with relevant Training Institutions for an effective inspection service.

Section: 4 - Quality Control

The aim of the policy is to secure and establish facilities for simple quality testing.

The Department of Health will establish an inventory of the country's facilities which can be used to test pharmaceutical products, and establish agreements to provide this service.

Further; links and agreements will be established with recognised laboratories in the region to test pharmaceutical products on an ad hoc basis at low cost.

Other Quality Assurance Measures will be pursued and established wherever feasible.

Such measures may include mechanisms for selection and monitoring of suppliers in relation to quality practice, performance, reliability, etc and compliance with international criteriae in drug promotion and marketing. (see section 5.5)

Section: 5 – Donations of Drugs

The aim of the policy is to ensure that drug donations meet the health needs of the country and requirements laid down in regulations

The Department of Health will promote the use of guidelines already set up in the catalogue to donors and recipients.

These guidelines will be reviewed to ensure that donated drugs comply with requirements as set up in the World Health Organisation Guidelines on drug donations.

Donated drugs should be among those listed in the Catalogue, should be labelled with generic name and have at least one year remaining shelf life.

CHAPTER 5

DRUG AFFORDABILITY

The aim of the policy is to ensure that essential drugs are affordable to all in need.

This aim will be achieved by maintaining an adequate budget for drugs for the public sector, by promoting cost containment measures and by monitoring prices in the public and private sectors.

Section: 1 - Financing of Drugs in the Public Sector

The aim of the policy is to ensure that sufficient resources are allocated and used efficiently to secure equity of access.

Drugs will continue to be provided free of charge or against a minimal fee at the point of delivery according to existing Government policies. It will be the responsibility of the Government to ensure the adequacy of funding for all the drug needs of the public health care system.

The Government will plan, budget and secure sufficient funding for the supply of drugs.

The fee exemption system will be extended to all levels of care and will be developed further.

The Department of Health will pay special attention to cost containment and rationalization of the drug chain.

The Government will look into mechanisms for health insurance systems as an additional means to finance drugs.

Section: 2 - Prices of Drugs

The aim of the policy is to keep the prices of essential drugs (public/private) at a reasonable level.

The Department of Health in collaboration with private pharmacies and Consumer Affairs Council will monitor the prices of a number of essential and selected drugs to obtain information on price trends in order to develop strategies to contain any undue price increases.

The use of generic drugs as a measure to reduce prices and improve drug use will be encouraged through promotion with prescribers, pharmacists and patients.

CHAPTER 6

RATIONAL USE OF DRUGS

The aim of the policy is to promote the rational prescribing and dispensing of drugs by all health personnel and the appropriate use of drugs by the patients.

This aim will be achieved through appropriate training, relevant legislation (see section 9.), independent drug information, standard treatment manuals and public education.

Section: 1 – Education and Training

The aim of the policy is to ensure that all health workers in the public and private sector involved in diagnosis, prescribing and dispensing will be fully trained in the essential drug concept, stock management and rational use of drugs.

The curricula of all relevant health workers will be assessed and if necessary revised to ensure that sufficient emphasis is placed on the essential drug concept, rational drug use and patient counselling. These concepts will also be included in existing in-service training programmes.

These achievements will be made possible by strong collaboration between the Department of Health, the Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee, the professional bodies and the Training Institutions.

Prescribing and dispensing in the public sector will continue to be by generic name and will be in accordance with the standard treatment guidelines and the Medical Store Catalogue which will be reviewed regularly and widely disseminated.

The use of generic names and adherence to standard treatment guidelines will be promoted in the private sector.

Traditional medicines of proven medicinal use will be documented and introduced for use in the formal health care system. The use of traditional medicines will be incorporated when or where appropriate through education and training.

Section: 2 - Drug Information.

The aim of the policy is to widely disseminate accurate, unbiased and relevant information on drugs to all health workers in the public and private sectors.

Official publications of the Department of Health and of other bodies, the Medical Stores catalogue, the Standard Treatment Guidelines and other medical publications will be collected and disseminated by the Department of Health.

A drug information unit will be established which will include among its responsibilities; monitoring of adverse drug reactions. This strategy will be developed in collaboration with the Department of Health, relevant Training Institutions and the National Narcotics Bureau.

Section: 3 – Public Education

The aim of the policy is to make available to the public, objective and practical information on drugs and their proper use.

Proper handling of drugs, compliance with drug treatment, appropriate self medication and safe disposal of drugs will be promoted through various channels including the use of all Public Media.

A partnership between Department of Health, the medical and nursing associations, non governmental organisations, the Training Institutions and the consumers will support these efforts.

Section: 4 - Drug and Therapeutic Committees

The aim of the policy is to encourage health workers to participate in collaborative management of drugs in their institutions to ensure rational and cost effective use of drugs.

Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee will be recognized as having the primary responsibility in institutionalising rational and cost effective use of drugs.

The Department of Health in recognition of the need and support for local drug and therapeutic committees will; through the Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee, issue guidelines for the formation and functioning of these committees.

The local committees will be responsible for; among other duties; determining the quantity of drugs needed and enforce the rational use of drugs, by all health workers.

Section: 5 - Advertising and Promotion

The aim of the policy is to ensure that advertising and marketing of drugs and related products will not induce irrational use of these products.

Ethical criteria for promotion of drugs and products for which medicinal claims are made, will be developed based on the "WHO ethical criteria for medicinal drug promotion". These will be included in legislation and regulations to ascertain their enforcement.

Department of Health will ensure that promotion of drugs and related products is based on scientifically established evidence and that advertisements to the public are educational and restricted to over the counter drugs (OTC).

CHAPTER 7

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

The aim of the policy is to ensure the provision of effective pharmacy services in both the public and private sectors through training and retention of an adequate number of staff at each level of the health care system.

The aim will be achieved through the planning of the human resources needed and subsequent training according to the plans.

Section 1 – Human Resources Planning

The aim of the policy is to secure sufficient pharmaceutical human resources in the public sector.

An inventory and a plan of the types and levels needed in terms of pharmacy technicians and pharmacists will be developed by the Department of Health in collaboration with the Department of Personnel Management and the relevant Training Institutions.

Career structure, bonding, remuneration will be reviewed to ensure that trained staff remain in the public sector, where they are most needed.

Priority will be given to identify human resources and training needs at Provincial level and below.

The Department of Health will identify as a short term measure ways to get foreign personnel on a need basis to address the most acute problems in the pharmaceutical sector.

Section: 2 – Human Resources Training

The aim of the policy is to provide health personnel with the appropriate skills in management and use of drugs.

Appropriate training programmes will be developed in collaboration with the relevant Training Institutions and with other countries for the various categories of staff; such as doctors; pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, nurses, Health Extension Officers etc. In addition to training in the pharmaceutical areas, emphasis will be placed on management, including administrative and finance management.

Priority will be given to training of pharmacy technicians as they play a vital role in management of drugs at provincial and district levels.

PART III – ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT

CHAPTER 8

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The aim of the policy is to strengthen the Pharmaceutical Services Section of the Health Department to secure an effective implementation of the National Drug Policy.

This aim will be achieved through re-organisation of the section, increased staff and finance, and co-operation with other agencies and countries.

Section: 1 – Structure and Functions

The aim of the policy is to ensure organisation efficiency through better role definition and streamlining of the organisational structure.

The section will play a leading role in the implementation of the National Drug Policy. New positions will be established in order to cope with existing (see section: 1.2) and new functions.

The new functions include increased regulation of the pharmaceutical sector (registration of drugs, inspection, licensing of pharmaceutical establishments).

The new structure will co-ordinate and work in partnership with all the players involved in the implementation of the National Drug Policy.

It will retain revenues from licensing and registration fees to supplement government funding (see sections 2.1 and 2.2). This revenue which will be retained in a trust account to ensure effective functioning of the services.

The new structure will make full use of technical co-operation with other countries in order to maximise the effective use of limited resources.

Section: 2 - Research

The aim of the policy is to support operational research which has a bearing on the achievements of the National Drug Policy.

This includes: research on the impact of the National Drug Policy on health services and care; on the role of traditional medicines in health care; on problems related to drug use by patients.

The Department of Health will use the findings of such research to make necessary adjustments to the policy and the prescribed strategies.

Section: 3 - Legislation

The aim of the policy is to ensure full implementation of the National Drug Policy through updated legislation.

The legislation will be updated as and when required.

Regulations will be prepared to enforce the legislation.

New legislation and regulations in areas not covered will be developed to provide the legal basis for the National Drug Policy and to guarantee the enforcement of the Policy.

These activities will be done in consultation with Governmental agencies, the private sector and non-governmental organisations.

Section: 4 - Approaches

In developing and implementing the National Drug Policy; the main approaches will be:

Partnership between the major players: health personnel, private sector, and non-government organisations.

Increased coordination within the health sector including churches and non-governmental organisations.

Inter-sectoral cooperation with public sectors such as Customs, Finance, Education, Personnel Management and Provincial Administrations.

Increased responsibility to local authorities in line with the Organic Law on Provincial Governments and Local Level Governments.

Technical cooperation with other countries and international agencies in such field as: evaluation of drugs, exchange of drug information, quality control, transfer of technology, training and human resources development.

Section: 5 - Monitoring and Evaluation

The aim of the policy is to monitor and evaluate regularly the performance and achievements of the National Drug Policy.

The Department of Health will establish monitoring capability within the Pharmaceutical Services Branch with the functions of monitoring the implementation of the National Drug Policy and developing suitable indicators for measurement of progress.

Drug availability, Drug Quality, Drug Affordability, and Rational use of Drug will be priority areas for monitoring.

The Department of Health will establish a well coordinated Monitoring System to ensure that the policy during its implementation is well monitored, and regularly evaluated for relevant improvements and changes.