

PUBLIC NOTICE

SAFETY AND QUALITY

OF PACKAGED WATER

The Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) wishes to respond as follows to a statement in the media about the poor quality and safety of source water used for sachet water production in Ghana and the need for the FDA to be vigilant.

The Authority wants to remind the public of its responsibility to protect consumers, as mandated by the Public Health Act, 2012 (Act 851). With regard to packaged water (bottled and sachet), the FDA ensures this through the licensing of the manufacturing premises and the registration of these products. The premises of the manufacturing facilities are regularly inspected using the Authority's Guidelines, FDA/FDI/GL-FPF/2020/02. The inspection covers the starting material (water) and packaging materials to ensure that they meet their respective Ghana Standards; and the finished products to meet the requirement of GS175-1:2002 (for drinking water) and GS220:2014 (for mineral water). All inspections are done in accordance with the current Codes of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) where end products are released in accordance with the above-stated specifications.

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The production process includes Filtration/Reverse Osmosis which removes extraneous material, and UV Sterilization which destroys harmful pathogens which might be present. As part of the registration process by the FDA, the laboratory conducts tests to establish the presence or otherwise of microorganisms which is a critical parameter for drinking water safety. These include tests for E. coli, total coliforms, Aerobic Plate Count, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Streptococcus faecalis, and Clostridium perfringens.

Finally, the Authority wants to assure the public that it conducts periodic market surveillance and product quality analyses of products in circulation on the market. Trend analysis from the FDA laboratory has not shown the observation described in the media.

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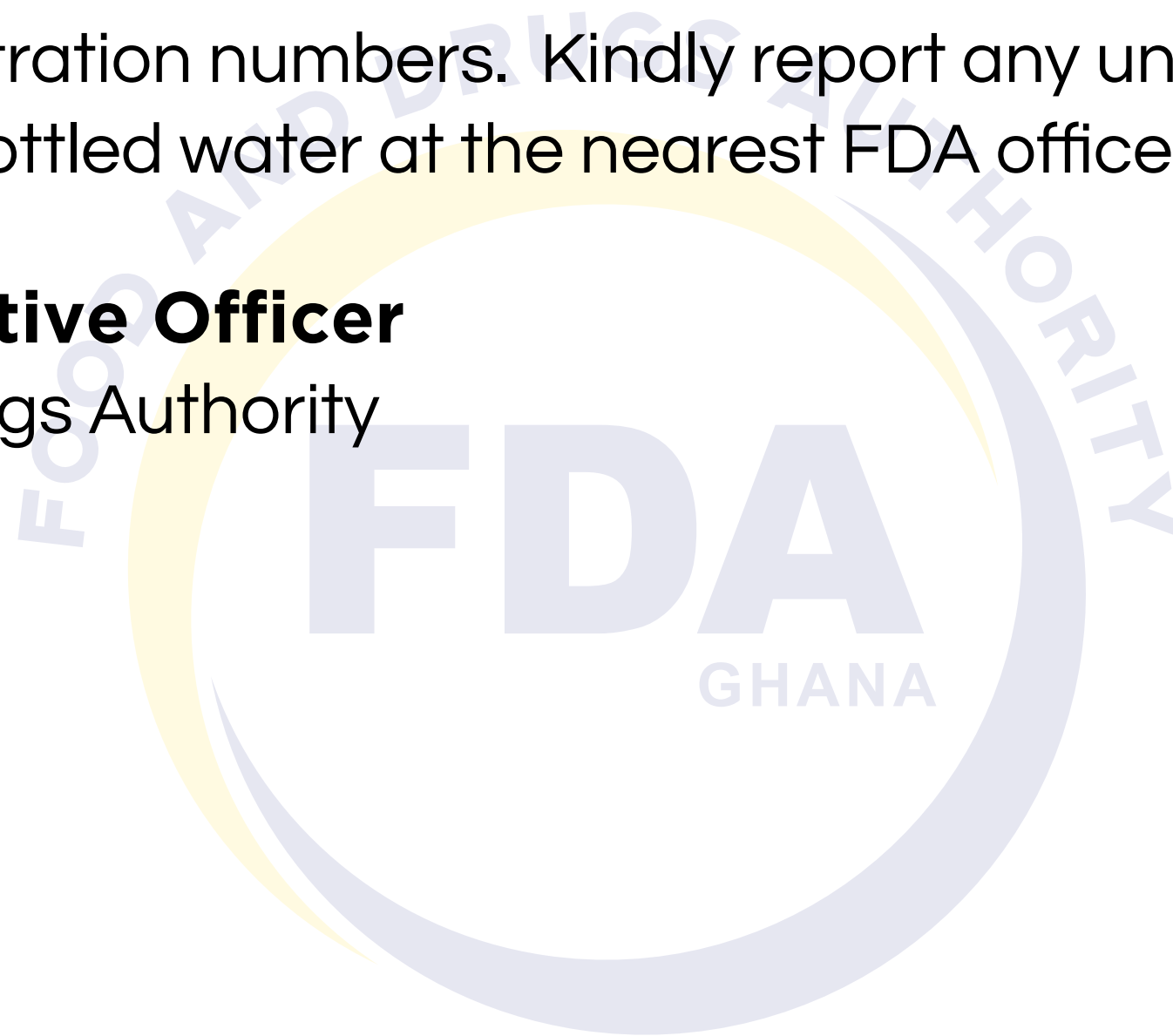
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The public is strongly advised to patronize only registered sachet and bottled water manufactured in Ghana that bear the FDA product registration numbers. Kindly report any unregistered sachet and bottled water at the nearest FDA office.

Chief Executive Officer

Food and Drugs Authority



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