



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
PRESS RELEASE
11 DECEMBER 2006**

**HSA WARNS CONSUMERS AGAINST TAKING AN ILLEGAL PRODUCT
- "*SANTI BOVINE PENIS ERECTING CAPSULES*" (三体牛鞭勃动力胶囊)**

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) warns members of the public not to consume an illegal product labelled as "*Santi Bovine Penis Erecting Capsules*", which has been found to contain a drug called "sildenafil". Sildenafil is a potent drug that may only be prescribed by a medical doctor and taken under strict medical supervision because of its potential serious side effects. The photograph of the product is shown in the Annex.

HSA Advisory

2 "*Santi Bovine Penis Erecting Capsules*" is an illegal product that is not licensed by HSA. A sample obtained from a member of the public who purchased the product from a street peddler was tested and found to contain Sildenafil. Sildenafil is a prescription drug that should be taken only when prescribed by a medical doctor. It should also be taken under strict medical supervision because of the potential side effects including the rare serious adverse effect of sudden vision loss in certain susceptible individuals. It may also cause fatal consequences in patients with heart conditions especially those who are taking nitrates for their heart conditions.

3 HSA advises members of the public not to consume "*Santi Bovine Penis Erecting Capsule*" and not to purchase health products from dubious sources such as street peddlers. Those who are taking this illegal product should stop immediately and seek medical advice should they feel unwell or are concerned about their health. The remaining stocks of the product should be disposed of. **The public is also encouraged to report any suspicious sales of illegal products to HSA. HSA's Compliance Branch may be contacted at Tel: 6866-3485 during office hours (Monday to Friday) or fax: 6478-9065.**

4 Sildenafil is a substance controlled under the Poisons Act. It is an offence for an unlicensed person to import, sell or possess for sale any product containing this substance. Anyone found guilty of an offence under the Poisons Act is liable to a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or imprisonment for a term of up to two years.

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