



Name: Ossa MJ KASILO

Designation: is Regional Adviser for Traditional Medicine at the WHO Regional Office for Africa (WHO/AFRO).

Biography: Kasilo holds Master's Degree in Clinical Pharmacy and a PhD in Clinical Pharmacology (and Toxicology). She is an expert in Traditional medicine and Research and responsible for managing the functioning of the Regional Expert Advisory Committee on Traditional Medicine for COVID-19 Response launched in July 2020 to oversee the development of traditional medicine based-therapeutics for COVID-19. She has over 30 years of experience in academia and international health development and is an authority in the fields of toxicology and traditional medicine where she has published extensively. She was Medicines Regulatory Officer at the WHO headquarters in Geneva; and Team Leader for Health Technologies and Innovation (HTI) at the WHO/AFRO (2012-2016). In this latter capacity, she provided technical leadership and oversight, coordinated innovative and integrated approaches, developed and delivered strategic regional policy frameworks, programmes and initiatives including interventions for impactful support to Member States on conventional medicine, traditional medicine, regulation of medical products, diagnostics and devices, laboratory services and blood and blood products and development of conceptual and regulatory framework for the establishment of the African Medicines Agency (AMA), geared towards strengthening the region's healthcare delivery system by ensuring their alignment with regional, continental and global strategies.

Kasilo has played a critical role in the development of training materials, tools and guidelines for policy development and implementation, regulation of traditional medicine practitioners, practices, and products and in the protection of intellectual property rights. She has led the development of research protocols and other technical documents for randomized, double-blind, and controlled clinical trials to generate scientific evidence supporting the safety, efficacy and quality of traditional medicine-based therapeutics for priority diseases (Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Diabetes, Hypertension, Sickle-cell disease as well as COVID-19) and strengthened country capacities in these areas. She has fostered collaboration across the African Region and beyond with several development and strategic partners with support from African scientists, to pool expertise and resources to accelerate development of new medicines using traditional medicine knowledge towards promoting integration of traditional medicine in national health systems taking advantage of similar experiences from Asia, particularly China and India.

Prior to joining WHO, Kasilo served as a Pharmaceutical Officer at the Ministry of Health in Tanzania; Director of the Zimbabwe National Drugs and Toxicology Information Service, Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Associate Professor and Full Professor at the University of Zimbabwe