**Text: Counterfeit Drugs Raise Africa's Temperature**

For someone with advanced technical know- how and a devious mind , a piece of chalk or some flour or starch can be shaped into tablet or pill .With the naked eye, it is almost impossible to tell it is a copycat. Labeling and packaging are often imitated to perfection . The global counterfeit drug trade , a billion- dollar industry, is thriving in Africa.The markets are flooded with fake and poor quality drugs ; making trip to the pharmacy seem like a game of Russian roulette . If you pick the wrong box, it could literally mean your death.

About 100000 deaths a year in Africa are linked to the counterfeit drug trade, according to the World Health Organization ( WHO). The British think thank, International Policy Network , estimates that globally , 700000 deaths a year are caused by fake malaria and tuberculosis drugs - comparing the death toll to the equivalent of “ four fully laden jumbo Jets crashing every day”

The WHO defines counterfeit medicine as “ one which is deliberately and fraudently mislabeled with respect to identity and /or source”. Both branded and generic products are faked . In some parts of Africa, Asia and Latin America, more than 30% of the medicines on sale can be fake, notes the organization.

The proliferation of fake , falsified and substandard drugs has had tragic consequences .,”Counterfeiting is more than critical act”, writes Professor Pierre A. Thomas, the WHO expert on malaria and tropical parasitic diseases. “ Manslaughter is perfectly jusified to describe such an act although some prefer calling it simply murder “ he added.

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**A starch:** un amidon. **To thrive:** prosperer. **A Toll**: un coût de

**Read the text and answer the following questions**

1- what does the author point out?

2- why is it sometimes difficult to identify counterfeit drugs?

3- Basing on the text, to what extent counterfeit drugs are dangerous for African people?

4- Do you agree with professor pierre A. Thomas when he writes’’ counterfeit is more than a criminal act’’? Justify your answer.

5- In your opinion what can be done by authorities of your country to fight effectively counterfeit?