

National Drug Authority has a Duty to Ensure Only Safe and Quality Drugs are Made Available to Ugandans.

The National Drug Authority on the 30th October 2019 issued a public statement recalling two batches of life guard condoms that is batch nos. **190402205 and 19050105**, these condoms had been rolled or made available to Ugandans by Marie Stoppes without being tested by NDA in their laboratories for any possible defect.

During an interview by the press with the outgoing state minister of health **Hon Sarah Opendi**, she warned that there could be serious health implications for the end users of these untested condoms. She further said the risk of catching sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS is high and appealed to Ugandans who could have used life guard condoms during the period of April to October to go and get tested. This has caused a lot of psychological torture and mental anguish among many Ugandans considering that life guard condoms are choice of many because they are price friendly.

Hardly a month thereafter through Joint Medical Stores, another set of assorted medical drugs manufactured by Zhejiang Ruixin pharmaceuticals CO LTD were recalled, these drugs included Gentamycin, Diclofenac Injection, and Lidocaine Injection among others, It's important to note that these recalled drugs are fast moving drugs and have been on market for some time and people who have been using them are afraid of the adverse effects of such drugs to their lives. NDA has come out to say that these drugs are not fit for consumption however it has not confirmed or ruled out any adverse effects.

Fresh in our mind is a batch of falsified hepatitis B Vaccine that was on market for some time until it was discovered by NDA that it was a counterfeit, this caused psychological trauma to many Ugandans that had received the so called falsified vaccine. A number of people said the counterfeit vaccine had caused impotence and more other allegations that NDA came out at a later stage to dispute.

National Drug Authority is mandated to ensure that essential, safe, efficacious and cost effective drugs are made available to the entire population of Uganda and this to be done through the control of quality, importation, exportation and sale of pharmaceuticals.

It is my submission that National Drug Authority and Ugandans are in a fiduciary relationship in regard to safe and quality medicine, National Drug Authority owes all Ugandans a duty of care to ensure only safe and Quality drugs are availed to Ugandans. When these drugs are untested, defective and falsified and are rolled or made available to Ugandans then NDA is failing on its Mandate.

The National Drug Authority has breached its duty of care, it owes Ugandans. The mental anguish and psychological trauma experienced by Ugandans for using defective, untreated and low Quality drugs is the damage suffered. It is against this back drop that National Drug Authority has to up its game otherwise it will be liable for medical negligence associated with breach of public trust and duty of care it owes to all Ugandans.

I appreciate efforts of National Drug Authority in recalling defective, unsafe and poor quality drugs but the challenge at hand, this issue is becoming recurrent and Ugandans are continuously being subjected to unsafe and poor quality drugs by the time these drugs are recalled hence damages arising before and after the recall of some of these drugs contrary to the mandate of NDA to ensure safe and quality drugs availed and accessed by Ugandans .

It's my considered thoughts that some of these recalled drugs have not been fully recovered from Pharmacies, Drug Shops and even street Vendors because all types of condoms are sold at the street during the night life of most towns around Uganda.

National Drug Authority needs to put sanctions to pharmacies or drug shops including street vendors that are still selling the impugned drugs and condoms that's the only way Ugandans will be safe from not fit to use drugs.



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