

Tanzania AIDS Week in Review

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Who's lying in the fake ARVs scam?

Controversy still continues over the real manufacturers of the fake anti-retroviral tablets as the Tanzania Pharmaceutical Industries (TPI) Limited insists it is innocent and says it will not shut down its factory over the issue.

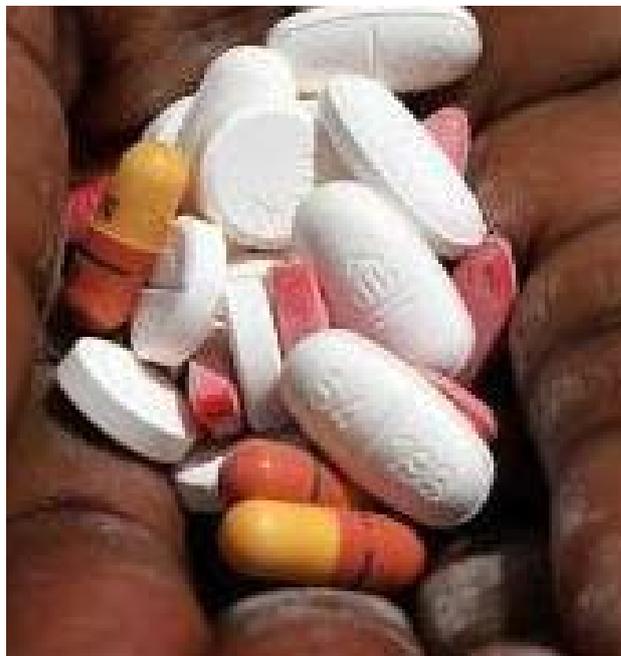
TPI chief executive officer Ramadhan Madabida told reporters recently that they had not received any formal communication from the government instructing them to suspend production of ARVs.

Instead, he said, what they received was a letter from the Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA) demanding to know the involvement of TPI in the counterfeit ARVs issue.

"We clarified to them [TFDA] that we were not responsible because we lack the technology required to produce bi-layer ARV tablets," said Mr Madabida.

But authorities yesterday insisted that TPI had been issued a letter ordering it to close down its factory pending investigations on the matter.

The minister for Health and Social Welfare, Dr Hus-



Life-prolonging anti-retroviral drugs, some of which have been found to be fake

sein Mwinyi, said that according to the briefing he got from aides, TPI was given a letter ordering it to stop production, promising that he would follow up on the matter to find out the source of the confusion about what exactly TPI was told to do.

"The briefing I got from my assistants was that TPI was instructed to suspend production till the ongoing investigation on how fake the ARVs got into the distribution chain of the

Medical Stores Department is concluded," said Dr Mwinyi.

The acting permanent secretary in the ministry, Dr Donan Mbandu, when contacted said the ministry ordered TPI, through TFDA to suspend its activities.

But Mr Madabida said they have been producing the drugs because after their reply to TFDA, there was no further communication between the two organisations.

Source: The Citizen

Madabida: Tunaendelea kuzalisha ARV

UONGOZI wa kiwanda cha kutengeneza dawa za kupunguza makali ya Ugonjwa wa Ukimwi (ARV) cha Tanzania Pharmaceutical Industries Limited (TPI), umesema hautasitisha uzalishaji wa dawa hizo kwa kuwa hauna barua inayowakataza kufanya hivyo kutoka mamlaka yoyote.

Kauli hiyo imekuja ikiwa ni siku 12 baada ya Serikali kupitia kwa Waziri wa Afya na Ustawi wa Jamii, Dk Hussein Mwinyi kutangaza kufungia uzalishaji wa dawa hizo katika kiwanda hicho.

Mkurugenzi Mkuu wa TPI, Ramadhan Madabida alisema jana kwamba kiwanda hicho bado kinaendelea kuzalisha dawa hizo kwa kuwa hakuna barua kutoka Wizara ya Afya na Ustawi wa Jamii iliyowataka wasimamishwa uzalishaji huo.

"Wenye mamlaka ya kukifungia kiwanda chochote cha dawa na kukithibitisha ni TFDA (Mamlaka ya Chakula na Dawa Tanzania), siyo Wizara ya afya," alisema.

Alisema baada ya tukio hilo, TFDA iliwataka kwa barua, watoe maelezo ndani ya siku 14 kuhusu mzunguko wa dawa hizo na siyo kusitisha uzalishaji... "Sisi tuliletewa barua na TFDA ambayo ilitutaka tutoe maelezo ndani ya siku 14 kuhusu dawa feki za ARV zilizosambazwa na kudaiwa kuwa ni za kwetu na tuliwaeleza."

Alisema walifanya hivyo kwa wakati na TFDA iliwahakikishia na kuwathibitishia kuwa hizo dawa hazikutengenezwa katika kiwanda hicho.

"Sisi hatuna uwezo wa uelewa wa utengenezaji wa dawa za ARV bandia zilizokutwa katika mzunguko, wenyewe

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Our Vision:

A recognized strong media association in and out the country that can bring about enhanced and effective HIV and AIDS media coverage and contribute to a reduction of the spread of HIV in Tanzania

Fake Drug Probe Complete - Police

POLICE have completed investigations on allegations that the Arusha-based Tanzania Pharmaceutical Industries (TPI) produced and circulated fake anti-retroviral drugs through the Medical Stores Department (MSD).

“The file will soon be handed over to the DPP (Director of Public Prosecution) for relevant legal action,” the Deputy Director for Criminal Investigation, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Isaya Mngulu said in Dar es Salaam.

Mr Mngulu, however, declined to disclose the findings of the investigations, saying the matter is confidential. The Deputy Minister for Health and Social Welfare, Dr Seif Rashid had earlier said relevant legal organs were now dealing with the matter.

“Our role as the ministry ended with preliminary investigations and the decision to halt production at the factory and suspension of some MSD officials,” he said.

He, however, said there was enough stocks of ARVs in the country, dismissing as baseless claims of shortage of the life-saving drugs for people living with HIV. “We have imported enough stocks of ARVs.

There is no need for panic because ev-



Inspector General of Police (IGP), Said Mwema

erything is under control,” he said. It is estimated that over 2 million Tanzanians live with HIV and over 500,000 are under ARV

treatment. Two weeks ago, the government suspended three top officials at the MSD and halted production at the TPI over circulation of fake ARVs.

The Minister for Health and Social Welfare, Dr Hussein Mwinyi, said the government had also stopped distribution of all drugs manufactured by TPI, including those stored by pharmacists and other outlets.

Those suspended pending investigations are the Director General, Mr Joseph Mga-ya, Quality Assurance Manager, Mr Sadick Materu and Quality Assurance Officer, Mr David Masero. The TPI management has, however, distanced the firm from production and circulation of fake ARVs.

The TPI Executive Director, Ms Zarina Madabida said recently in Dar es Salaam that the factory produces TT-VIR 30 with oval shaped tablets, whereas the fake drugs are round shaped TT-VR 30.

She said that while the TT-VIR 30 tablets are white in colour and marked TPI on one side and T 30 on the other, the TT-VR 30 are white on one side and yellow on the other.

“We do not have the technology that can produce round-shaped tablets in two colours, the product is simply not ours,” she said.

Source: Daily News

Madabida: Tunaendelea kuzalisha ARV

from page 1

wanajua zilipotengenezwa na si hapa, ni nje ya nchi na wanafahamu kinachoendelea,” alisema Madabida.

Alisema kiwanda hicho kinazalisha dawa hizo kama kawaida na hawana kitu cha kuwakwaza kutoendelea na uzalishaji.

Alisema wanatarajia kuongeza uzalishaji kwa asilimia 70 na Desemba mwaka huu wanatarajia kuzindua kiwanda kipya ambacho kitakuwa kikifanya kazi chini ya Shirika la Afya Duniani (WHO) na kitakapokamilika, kitakuwa na uwezo wa kuuza dawa hizo ndani na nje ya Tanzania.

Pia alisema wanachukua hatua zao na kuhakikisha umma unaelzwa ukweli wa dawa za ARV bandia zilipopatikana.

Hata hivyo, kauli ya Madabi-

da ilipingwa na Kaimu Mganga Mkuu wa Serikali, Dk Donald Mmbando aliyesema jana kuwa kiwanda hicho kilipelekewa barua ya kujieleza na kusitisha uzalishaji ndani ya siku 14.

“Tuliletewa nakala ya barua kutoka TFDA ambayo wamemandikia mmiliki wa kiwanda cha TPI kuwa atoe maelezo ndani ya siku 14 na kusitisha uzalishaji wa dawa hizo... Mmiliki anavyodai hajapewa barua, si kweli,” alisema Dk Mmbando. Hata hivyo, Mkurugenzi Mtendaji wa TFDA, Dk Hiiti Silo na Ofisa Uhusiano wa Mamlaka hiyo, Gaudensia Simwaza hawakupatikana jana kutoa ufafanuzi juu ya sakata hilo baada ya simu zao kutopatikana.

Hatawa ya TPI kutakiwa kusimamisha uzalishaji wa dawa hizo, ni baada ya kubainika kuwapo kwa

dawa bandia katika mzunguko zenye alama ya biashara, TT-VR 30 toleo namba OC.01.85 mwanzoni mwa Septemba mwaka huu katika Hospitali ya Wilaya ya Tarime baada ya TFDA kufanya ukaguzi. Akitangaza hatua ya kukifungia kiwanda hicho, Dk Mwinyi alisema baada ya kufanya uchunguzi, walibaini kuwa nyaraka zinaonyesha kuwa TPI ndicho kilichoiuzia MSD ARV bandia.

“Wamesimamishwa ili kupisha uchunguzi kwa sababu wanatakiwa kufanya uchunguzi wa kile wanachokipokea... Tunachooona hapa ni kwamba uchunguzi haukufanyika sawasawa ndiyo maana tumechukua hatua za kuwasimamisha,” alisema Dk Mwinyi alipokuwa akizungumza Dar es Salaam na kuongeza:

“Matumizi ya dawa hiyo inay-

otengenezwa na TPI yamesimamishwa na imeondolewa katika vituo vya kutolea huduma za afya na kurudishwa MSD,” alisema.

Alisema tayari makopo 9,570 ya dawa hiyo yamerejeshwa MSD na kwamba bado makopo mengine 2,600 yapo katika utaratibu wa kukusanywa.

Waziri huyo alisema dawa hiyo ilitengenezwa Machi mwaka huu na muda wa matumizi yake unatarajiwa kumalizika Februari mwakani huku zikiwa na rangi mbili tofauti, njano na nyeupe.

Alisema dawa zilizokuwa na rangi ya njano zilikuwa na kiambata cha Efaverenz badala ya viambata aina ya Niverapine, Lamivudine na Stavudine vilivyopaswa kuwapo. Dk Mwinyi alisema vidonge vilivyokutwa kwenye vifungashio vya dawa husika vilikuwa tofauti na vifungashio vilivyosajiliwa na TDFA.

Chanzo: Mwananchi

Mrs. Georgina Ahamefule, is an indigene of Imo State who tested positive to HIV while working as an auxiliary nurse at a certain Medical Centre in Lagos. At first, due to her naivety, she found the whole world crashing on her, no thanks to her employer, Dr Molokwu, the Chief Medical Director of the Medical Centre who terminated her employment which began in 1989 and advised her to go back to her village and die since she had but little time. A lot happened to this woman, as she shares her traumatic experiences during a tumultuous journey to victory. The high point of her account is that her fighting spirit is backed by God and the Social and Economic Rights Action Center (SERAC). She won a N7-million lawsuit against Dr Molokwu. It was a landmark judgment for Felix Morka, the executive Director of SERAC who described the judge's decision as representing a major victory for Georgina and all those living with the HIV virus in the country. Dr Morka also disclosed during a press conference that the judgment was the first-ever judicial pronouncement on the unlawfulness of HIV-based discrimination and therefore, significant in holding that conducting HIV test without the individual's consent is tantamount to unlawful battery... Read on.

I joined a certain Medical Centre as an auxiliary nurse in 1989. In 1995, while I was pregnant, I had boils on my skin and I went to my employer for treatment.

He carried out medical examinations and diagnostic tests without disclosing the nature and outcome of the tests to me. My employer later referred me for further tests at the University of Lagos Teaching Hospital with a note in a sealed envelope.

The doctor at LUTH on his own part carried out various tests without also disclosing the nature

I Was Told I'll Die 17 Yrs Ago - HIV Positive Nurse

of those tests to me. I was subsequently informed that I had tested positive to the Human Immuno Deficiency Virus (HIV).

I was never provided any form of counseling before or after the tests were carried out as required by medical ethics and the law. In fact, I did not understand what was going on but I remember that I was pregnant at that time. The situation was made worse when my employer advised that I should prepare to die since I had not much time.

He also promptly terminated my employment as an auxiliary nurse at the hospital because of my HIV -positive status. In the termination letter dated October 23, 1995, he explained that the hospital's management could not compromise the facility or its patients by exposing them to risks of being infected with HIV. But surprisingly, he quickly gave me a letter recommending me for employment in other medical facilities.

I suffered serious emotional and psychological trauma as a result of the news of my HIV-positive status. This, coupled with the loss of my employment, contributed to a spontaneous miscarriage of my pregnancy.

I was further victimized, rejected, humiliated and put at great risk when my employer refused to carry out evacuation of the miscarried pregnancy which he himself prescribed, on the ground of my HIV -positive status. But thank God doctors at another hospital eventually carried out the evacuation procedure for me.

After that, I thought he was stating the fact about my having little or no time to live and so in obedience, I relocated to my home town and there, I waited to die but death never came. While at the village, I ran into someone

who asked me to go to LUTH so that I would receive help. I also obeyed.

It was while I visited LUTH that I ran into my god-mother, Mrs Onyewuenyi who listened to my ordeal and referred me to SERAC. When I visited SERAC, they interviewed me and subsequently, contacted my former employer so as to see if he will do any form of settlement but he ignored SERAC, so, SERAC took the matter to court on my behalf.

The first shocker I got was right in the court. Unfortunately, the unfairness I suffered did not stop at the hands of my employer and his hospital. On July 14, 2000, SERAC filed the lawsuit challenging the termination of my employment as an auxiliary nurse by the Medical Centre and its Chief Medical Director, based on my HIV-positive status.

So, the shocker like I mentioned, happened in 2001. Right there in the court, the then presiding judge in the case, barred me from entering the courtroom because of my HIV -positive status.

The judge further ruled that satisfactory expert evidence must be presented in court to convince her that the judge and others would not become infected with the HIV virus as a result of my mere physical presence in the courtroom. It was a huge blow on my devastated life.

SERAC appealed that decision and the Court of Appeal remitted the matter back to the High Court for trial. Thank God I was allowed to testify in my case without further restrictions in the court, in the compound, and because I made public my status which I am glad I did. Otherwise, I would have died out of ignorance.

Some illiterate and ignorant

neighbours avoided me like plague. It would have been okay by me if they did just that, but they went further to humiliate me and pass silly comments when they see me around and in short, they looked for one excuse or the other to tell me the story of my life. They fought my niece who came on holiday, saying she had no mother which was why she can put up with me in my state.

In all this, I am grateful to God for the wonderful husband He gave me. My husband has since then tested negative to the virus and you may be glad to know that I also have a son who is also negative. God has really used Dr Felix Morka and in fact, workers at SERAC who have adopted me as a part of their family, to bless me and give me reason to live. Indeed, they gave me reason to live to see my dream of being victorious come true.

I have been getting assistance from SERAC in terms of feeding, transportation to Lagos each time my case came up because I relocated with my family to Obigbo in Rivers State; they also helped for hospital bills.

On the issue of court case, there was another shocker. As my case progressed, my employer presented false affidavit showing that I had died in my hometown. As you can see, I'm alive and very healthy.

So, we discovered that the affidavit was filed in support of a motion seeking to dismiss my lawsuit against my employer and his hospital. The false declaration was one of my employer's and his lawyers' strategies to frustrate my determination to get justice in the matter of the wrongful termination of my employment and other violations.

On getting information about

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Youths to Assemble in Arusha to Mark HIV/Aids Day

The youth of United Nations Association of Tanzania (YUNA), through its UN-Chapters and Clubs Tanzania Network, Arusha region in collaboration with TACAIDS and other partners, will mark the HIV/AIDS Day in Arusha on December 1.

The event is expected to bring together about 2,500 youths from secondary schools and from 6 higher learning institution in Arusha region.

The HIV/AIDS Day theme for this year is “No new infection, No discrimination and no young people dying of HIV/AIDS “. The specific focus according to organizers will be on “health related issues” and the goal is to engage the youth in leading the campaign toward ending HIV/AIDS in Tanzania.



TACAIDS Executive Chairperson Dr. Fatma Mrisho

The event is expected to take place in Arusha’s Sheikh Amri Abeid stadium, from 12: 00 Pm to 06: 00 pm.

AIDS DAY 2012 in Arusha will include the gathering of university and secondary students, government experts, those working in the field of HIV, persons living with HIV other individuals and stakeholders committed to end this pandemic.

Youth of the United Na-

tions Association (YUNA) of Tanzania is a youth led non-governmental organization (NGO) that works to promote the work of the UN and further its objectives among youth in Tanzania.

YUNA started as the youth section of the United Nations Association in Tanzania (UNA) in 1996. YUNA is now registered as a fully-fledged national NGO and is a separate entity from UNA.

Weekly quotable quotes!!

“It takes a variety of strategies and initiatives to address this pandemic. It’s about life and death and the survival of humanity.–US Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA)”

VICHOCHEO VYA MAAMBUKIZI

- Majumba ya video
- Picha chafu za ngono
- Kipato kidogo kwa wanafamilia kinachopelekea biashara ya ngono
- Unywaji wa pombe na vileo vingine
- Kutetereka kwa ndoa
- Mila Potofu
- Tabia ya kufunga ndoa bila kupima

SOURCE: Advocacy and Communication Department, TACAIDS

HIV FACTS AND STATISTICS IN TANZANIA

- The 2007-08 Tanzania HIV and Malaria Indicator Survey (THMIS) included HIV testing of over 15,000 men and women. According to the survey, 5.7% of Tanzanians age 15-49 are HIV-positive.
- HIV prevalence is higher among women than men in both urban and rural areas. Urban residents are almost twice as likely as rural residents to be HIV positive.
- Women get infected earlier than men. For women, prevalence increases with age until it reaches a peak at age 30-34 (10.4%). The peak for men occurs between ages 35-39 (10.6%).
- Tanzania’s HIV prevalence has declined slightly in recent years. The current HIV prevalence rate is 5.7%, with

6.6% for women and 4.6% for men. By contrast, the 2003-04 Tanzania HIV Indicator Survey (THIS) found an overall HIV prevalence of 7.0%, with 7.7% for women (6,000 tested) and 6.3% for men (4,900 tested). These results show a statistically significant decline in HIV prevalence among men but not among women.

- HIV prevalence is highest in Iringa (16%), Dar es Salaam, and Morogoro (9% each). Infection rates are lowest in Zanzibar (less than 1%).

Drivers of the epidemic

1. Promiscuous sexual behaviour
2. Intergerational sex
3. Concurrent sexual partners
4. Presence of other sexually transmitted infections such as herpes simplex x 2 virus.
5. Lack of knowledge of HIV

transmission

Contextual factors shaping the epidemic in the country

1. Poverty and transactional sex with increasing numbers of commercial sex workers
2. Men’s irresponsible sexual behaviour due to cultural patterns of virility
3. Social, economic and political gender inequalities including violence against women
4. Substance abuse such as alcohol consumption
5. Local cultural practices e.g. widow cleansing
6. Mobility in all its forms which leads to separation of spouses and increased establishment of temporary sexual relationships
7. Lack of male circumcision

SOURCE: TACAIDS

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TFDA matatani ARV's bandia

MAMLAKA ya Chakula na Dawa (TFDA) lime waka matatani ikielezwa kuwa nayo inastahiki kuchukuliwa hatua kutokana na kuzembea katika ukaguzi wa dawa na hivyo kusababisha dawa bandia za kupunguza makali ya ukimwi (ARV's) kusambazwa.

Sakata hilo linakuja wiki chache tangu Waziri wa Afya na Ustawi wa Jamii, Dk. Hussein Mwinyi, kumsimamisha kazi Mkurugenzi wa Bohari ya Dawa (MSD), Joseph Mgamma, na viongozi wengine kupisha uchunguzi wa tuhuma za kusambaza dawa hizo.

Wengine waliosimamishwa kazi ni mkuu wa kitengo cha udhibiti ubora na ofisa uthibiti ubora huku kiwanda cha dawa cha Tanzania Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd (TPI) kikisitishiwa uzalishaji na usambazaji wa dawa zilizokwishatengenezwa.

Taarifa za ndani ya TFDA imedokezwa na mmoja wa maofisa wake ambaye aliomba kuhifadhiwa jina kwa vile si msemaji, zilisema kuwa mamlaka hiyo nayo ilizembea katika sakata zima la dawa bandia za ARV's kusambazwa.

Kiwanda chochote kabla ya kuzalisha dawa au chakula ni lazima kipate kibali cha TFDA

baada ya kukaguliwa na kukidhi viwango husika.

“Hata dawa ingekuwa inaingizwa kutoka nje ya nchi, vilevile TFDA inapaswa kukikagua kiwanda husika kuona kama kina ubora wa kutengeneza dawa na kukidhi viwango,” kilisema chanzo chetu.

Gazeti hili pia limefanikiwa kupata nakala ya waraka wa TFDA kuhusu hali ya viwanda vya dawa nchini, ambayo inabainisha kuwa Tanzania ina viwanda saba vya dawa vilivyosajiliwa katika mwaka 2011/2012.

Viwanda hivyo ni Shelys Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Zenufa Laboratories Ltd, Mansoor Daya Chemicals Ltd, Keko Pharmaceuticals (1997) Ltd, Tanzania Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd, A.A. Pharmaceuticals Ltd na Tanzansino United Pharmaceuticals (T) Ltd.

Waraka huo unabainisha kuwa kiwanda cha Tanzansino United Pharmaceuticals (T) Ltd, ambacho serikali kupitia Jeshi la Kujenga Taifa ni mmbia mmojawapo kimesimamisha utengenezaji dawa tangu Agosti 2010 kutokana na mwekezaji wa nje kujiondoa.

“Ukaguzi uliofanywa na TFDA katika miaka ya fedha ya 2010/11 na 2011/12 umeonyesha kuwa hakuna kiwanda kilichokidhi viwango vya utengenezaji wa dawa,” alisema ripoti yao.

TFDA katika taarifa yake hiyo inakiri kuwa viwanda vya dawa hapa nchini katika kipindi cha miaka miwili iliyopita vimeshindwa kukidhi vigezo vya usajili wa dawa.

Kutokana na hali hiyo dawa za viwanda hivyo zimekuwa zikiruhusiwa na mamlaka hiyo kuwepo sokoni kwa kuzingatia utaratibu maalumu ambao hauzingatii vigezo vyote vya usajili wa dawa.

“Utaratibu huu ulikuwa wa muda mfupi uliokuwa na nia ya kutoa muda kwa kiwanda husika kurekebisha mapungufu ili dawa zao zisajiliwe. Baadhi ya dawa zinazotengenezwa na viwanda vya ndani ni za tiba za ugonjwa wa malaria na vijua sumu,” iliongeza taarifa.

Pia inafanua kuwa katika siku za karibuni, sampuli za matoleo (batches) kadhaa za dawa za viwanda hivyo zilizochukuliwa katika soko na kuchunguzwa zimeonekana kuwa na ubora duni na hivyo kuondolewa.

Ni katika mtiririko huo, mtoa habari wetu anasema TFDA haijawahi kutoa kibali kwa kiwanda cha TPI kuzalisha dawa za ARV's kinachoonyesha kuwa kiwanda hicho kimekidhi vigezo tajwa.

Lakini katika hali inayoonyesha kutokuwepo umakini, TFDA ilizisajili dawa hizo za ARV's kutoka TPI wakati katika ripoti yake

wanakiri kuwa kiwanda hicho hakina sifa za kuzizalisha.

“Dawa inaweza kuwa moja lakini ikawa na matoleo tofauti, hivyo hata toleo hilo la dawa bandia zinazolalamikiwa halikuletwa TFDA kwa ukaguzi maana ingebainika haraka kabla ya kuingia sokoni,” kiliongeza chanzo hicho.

Ofisa huyo anashauri kuwa TFDA ilipaswa kuwa na mkaguzi wake ndani ya MSD ambaye angekuwa anasaidia kukagua na kuhakikisha dawa hizo hazizalishwi na kusambazwa.

“Hapa utaona kuwa haikuwa sahihi kumwajibisha mkurugenzi wa MSD pekee na kutuacha TFDA ambao hatukutumiza wajibu wetu. MSD hawana utaalamu wa kuchunguza dawa bandia hiyo ni kazi ya TFDA,” alisisitiza ofisa huyo.

Dawa hiyo bandia aina ya TT-VIR 30 toleo namba OC.01.85 iliyotengenezwa Machi 2011 na kuisha matumizi Februari 2013, nyaraka zake zilionyeshwa kiwanda cha TPI kiliwauzia MSD.

Waziri Mwinyi alieleza kuwa vidonge vilivyokutwa kwenye vifungashio vya dawa husika vilikuwa vimesajiliwa na TFDA.

Mkurugenzi Mkuu wa TFDA jana alipotafutwa kwa njia ya simu, alisema atatoa ufafanuzi wake leo akiwa ofisini.

Chanzo: Tanzania Daima

I Was Told I'll Die 17 Yrs Ago

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their wicked plan, Dr Felix Morka called me and asked if I was okay to travel to Lagos, I said yes and he asked me to take the next flight to Lagos which I did. When I appeared at the court, my employer and his cohorts were shocked.

Well, to cut the long story short, on Thursday September 27, 2012, Honorable Justice Y.O. Idowu the judge at the Lagos State High Court Idowu held that the termination of my employment by the hospital where I worked

on the ground of my HIV-positive status is illegal, unlawful and actuated by malice and extreme bad faith.

So she gave an order for 5 Million Naira for general damages for the wrongful termination of my employment to be paid to me and 2 Million Naira as compensation for unlawful conduct of HIV testing without my informed consent and also for negligence.

Right now, I feel on top of the world for my victory and in fact that is an understatement because I can't explain exactly how I feel now.

This is a case that seemed impossible and in fact if the matter was left for me or my family to handle, it would have died a natural death because I'm from a poor background.

I appreciate every effort made by Dr Felix Morka and his workers to see me through this victory without collecting a kobo from me. God will bless them. Now I will have enough to sponsor my son who will be in the university next year.

I can also start a good business of my choice or better still, as part of my own contribution, organize a small group that will help other people living with HIV in my community.



TFDA Executive director Hiiti Sillo

Drugs body adds more confusion on fake ARVs

The watchdog for the quality of food and drugs in the country recently added more confusion to the fake anti-retroviral drugs saga. In a dramatic turn of events; it shifted the responsibility to ensure the supply of quality and safe ARVs to the drugs manufacturer.

The TFDA executive director, Mr Hiiti Sillo, claimed at a press conference that the Arusha-based Tanzania Pharmaceuticals Industries (TPI) was responsible for fake ARVs found in some public hospitals, despite persistent denials by its management of any involvement in the issue.

Analysts who spoke to The Citizen yesterday said by shifting the blame to the manufacturer over the presence of fake drugs in the country's supply chain, TFDA was only absconding from its responsibilities.

"According to international standards and best practice, the marketing authorisation holder is supposed to ensure that consumers of its products are safe. Tanzanians should not blame TFDA for TPI's failure to produce quality ARVs," Mr Sillo told reporters.

Last month the TFDA announced the presence of fake ARVs TT-VIR 30 OC.01.85 similar to those manufactured by TPIL. But the

firm denied doing so, saying their plants do not possess the technology to produce bi-layer ARVs tablets.

A TPIL director, Ms Zarina Madabida, told The Citizen recently that it was, in fact, TPIL that informed TFDA of the presence of fake ARVs in circulation as the law demands.

But Mr Sillo said yesterday that it was the TFDA's own investigations that had found out that TPIL had supplied fake ARVs to the Medical Supplies Department (MSD).

Contacted for comment, TPI chief executive officer Ramadhan Madabida, whose company has had to defend itself from a serious accusations by authorities over the fake ARVs issue, indicated that he has had enough.

"It is neither opportune nor desirable, on my part, to continue speaking on this issue. So, I am not going to offer any more comments," he told this paper in a telephone interview.

Mr Sillo said according to documents presented to the security agencies for legal action, TPI Ltd sold fake ARVs version number TT-VIR 30 OC.01.85 to the MSD.

"Due to that fact, we issued banning letters on October 4 to TPI Ltd officials to stop the production of ARVs as well as distribution of any medications in the country," Mr Sillo

said. Analysts say the act of the TFDA shifting the blame to the manufacturer adds more confusion because, as the quality watchdog, it is its duty to ensure only drugs (and food products) that are safe for human consumption are in the market.

In this case it is the TFDA's duty also to punish manufacturers of substandard products once they are proved guilty, according to the law.

"As far as laws and regulations are concerned, the TFDA has the mandate to ensure that food and drugs manufactured in the country and those imported are safe for human consumption," said Mr Irenei Kiria.

The executive director of Sikika, a non-governmental organisation engaged in health issues, added: "The MSD also has a quality control unit which ensures that only drugs and medical supplies meeting the required standards are supplied."

He added: "If the manufacturer has supplied fake ARVs, the TFDA was supposed to know before the drugs reached the MSD. And the latter was not supposed to pay the supplier (TPI) unless its quality control unit had certified that what they received were supplies of acceptable quality. So there is no way the TFDA or even the MSD can escape responsibilities over the issue."

The TFDA legal counsellor, Mr Iskari Fute, said yesterday that after the investigation is complete legal action will be taken against the TPIL, in addition to suspension of production. "I want to assure the public about the safety of other ARVs provided in health centres. We are continuing to examine fake ARVs version number TT-VIR 30 OC.01.85 produced by TPI Ltd for further legal action," Mr Fute said.

Mr Sillo said yesterday that the TFDA still had the responsibility to ensure safe and quality drugs as well as food products reach consumers. Referring to clauses contained in the Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Act 2003, Mr Sillo said the TFDA has the responsibility of regulating all matters relating to quality and safety of food, drugs, herbal drugs, medical devices, poison and cosmetics; regulating the importation, manufacture, labelling, marking or identification, storage promotion, selling and distribution of food, drugs, cosmetics, herbal drugs and medical devices or any materials or substances used in the manufacture of products under its jurisdiction.

But Mr Sillo, nevertheless, went ahead to blame the TPI for the entrance of fake ARVs in the MSD's distribution system.

Source: The Citizen

State Insists TPI Made Counterfeit HIV/Aids Drugs

THE government insisted that the Arusha-based Tanzania Pharmaceutical Industries (TPI) manufactured the fake anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs that were discovered in August, this year.

The Deputy Minister for Health and Social Welfare, Dr Seif Rashid, told the National Assembly here that the TPI, which had its production activities suspended by the Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA) following the allegations, sold fake ARVs branded TT-VIR 30 to the Medical Stores Department (MSD).

“The documents that have been found at the MSD show that the TPI sold fake TT-VIR 30 drugs that were manufactured in batch number OC.01.85,” he said. He said that the fake life saving

drugs batch was made of tablets with three different colours, yellow, white and belayed tablets (white and pink). “Tablets with yellow colour were made up of Efavirenz instead of Nevirapine, Lamivudine and Stavudine which were supposed to be the genuine contents of the drug. The white and the combination of pink and white (belayed tablets) drugs had genuine contents (Nevirapine, Lamivudine and Stavudine) as shown in the label,” he said.

The government’s statement in the House comes days after the TFDA Director General, Mr Hiiti Sillo, told journalists in Dar es Salaam that contrary to TPI’s denials, his authority has documents and exhibits that prove that the company was behind the production of the ARVs.

“The documents and exhibits

have been submitted to security organs for further action,” he stated. He reassured the public that the company has been suspended from manufacturing ARVs through a letter with reference number CA/C.80/222/01A/47 of October 4 this year.

He also said that the authority has suspended the supply of the drugs through a letter with reference number CA/C.80/222/01A/55 of October 10, this year. Mr Sillo also denied reports that TPI is continuing with production of the drugs, noting that inspection conducted by TFDA on October 23, this year, confirmed that there was no production of the drugs. For all this time, the TPI has been insisting that it did neither manufacture nor selling of the said fake drugs.

“We would like to categorically

distance ourselves from the allegations. The said drugs did not emanate from TPI and are made using technology which we do not have in our factory,” said TPI Executive Director, Mrs Zarina Madabida. She said that TPI produces TT-VIR 30 in the form of oval shaped tablets whereas the fake drugs are round TT-VR 30.

“We do not have the technology that can produce tablets in a round shape and in two colours. The product is simply not ours,” she said.

The government has also suspended three officers pending investigations at the MSD who include the Director General, Mr Joseph Mgaya, the Quality Assurance Manager, Mr Sadick Materu and the Quality Assurance Officer, Mr David Masero.

Source: Daily News

‘Sakata la dawa bandia za Ukimwi halitarudia tena’

Serikali imesema itahakikisha tatizo hatari la utengenezaji wa dawa bandia ya kupunguza makali ya Ukimwi linapatiwa ufumbuzi wa kudu-mu na kuzuia lisitokee tena.

Kauli hiyo ya serikali ilitolewa na Naibu Waziri wa Afya na Ustawi wa Jamii, Seif Seleman Rashid, kufuatia kiwanda cha Tanzania Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd (TPI) kubainika kuzalisha dawa bandia ya kupunguza makali ya Ukimwi aina ya TT-VIR 30 yenye toleo namba OC.01.85 katika Hospitali ya Wilaya ya Tarime, mkoani Mara. Agosti mwaka huu, ukaguzi wa kawaida kwa mujibu wa Sheria ya Mamlaka ya Chakula na Dawa (TDFDA), ilibaini kuwepo kwa dawa hiyo bandia ya kupunguza makali ya Ukimwi katika hospitali hiyo.

Naibu Waziri alisema kupitia vyombo vya usalama, serikali

itaendelea na uchunguzi wa suala hilo kwa hatua zaidi za kisheria.

“Serikali itaendelea kuijengea uwezo TFDA ili iweze kuimarisha mifumo ya udhibiti wa dawa na bidhaa nyingine inazodhibiti ili kulinda afya ya watumiaji,” alisema. Alisema kupitia wizara yake, serikali imehakikisha uwepo wa dawa za kutosha za kupunguza makali ya Ukimwi katika vituo vyote vya kutolea huduma za afya.

Akizungumzia hatua zilizocho-kuliwa baada ya matokeo ya uchunguzi huo, alisema ilisimamisha matumizi ya dawa hiyo na kuiondoa katika vituo vya kutolea huduma za afya kote nchini na kuelekeza zirudishwe Bohari ya Dawa (MSD).

Hatua nyingine ni usitishaji wa usambazaji wa dawa zote ambazo ziko kwenye bohari za kiwanda cha TPI Ltd hadi uchunguzi wa suala hilo utakapokamilika.

Chanzo: Nipashe

Update From the Parliament

The government has reassured Tanzanians using ARVs to take the drugs without worries since those distributed all over the country are safe and meet the required standard.

The reassurance comes amid controversy of fake ARVs being distributed in the country thus creating tension and worries amongst users.

The Deputy Minister for Health and Social Welfare, Dr Seif Rashid, told the Assembly that it was true that some fake drugs had been detected in the distribution channel, insisting that the problem has been addressed by removing such counterfeit drugs.

He said that after intensive investigations by the Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA), Medical Store Department (MSD) and Tanzania pharmaceutical industries (TPI), the said fake ARVs were removed from distribution centres. Dr Rashid said that the government will continue empowering TFDA to ensure that it enthusiastically improves its core duty of checking out the standards of the drugs made and distributed in the country. He also declared that the ministry has done more to ensure that ARVs are available and the HIV victims get them without any difficulty.

Source: Daily News

Tuko Wangapi? Tulizana – Gets Govt beef up

Between Nov 5th to 9th, 2012 in Bagamoyo, Coast Region held a design workshop aimed at improving the on-going anti-AIDS mass media campaign on faithfulness known as Tuko Wangapi?-Tulizana (How many are we?, settle down).

Christened as, Phase Two Design Workshop, the event attracted several players in the HIV/AIDS-related communications and behavioral change issues.

Mr Jumanne Issango, speaking at the official opening of the five-day intensive working session and on behalf of the Executive Chairperson of the Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) Dr Fatma Mrisho, extended sincere congratulations to all participating stakeholders in this campaign; the funding organizations, technical support team and media houses for their valuable contributions.

We are all aware that the world is now counting down to three zeros; zero new infections, zero stigma and discrimination and zero death related to HIV. Tanzanians wishes the same to happen to them in few years to come. We are looking forward towards total elimination of new infections, stigma and all forms of discrimination reduced to zero and the possibility of averting death related to HIV.

This then is the global mission and our mission too. Therefore we have a responsibility to act through different interventions



Mary Plummer presenting her findings on Multiple Sexual Partnerships in Mwanza



Mr Jumanne Issango, TACAIDS' Acting Director of Advocacy and Information (DAI)

such as conducting awareness creation campaigns; for example through Tuko Wangapi? Tulizana in which we are here today for sharing the lessons learnt in the first phase and prepare the sec-

ond.

We believe that the first phase successfully appealed to the community and prompted personal risk perception. That is the risk of concurrent partnership meaning overlapping sexual relationships. For example the campaign has helped them to be aware that the network of other partners connected to them may exist in absence of their knowledge.

In the same avenue it is also definite that the campaign has prompted Tanzanians to start thinking on the solutions to this problem.

So let this team assists Tanzanians through the second phase of the campaign to realize self – efficacy, improve couple communication and reduce sexual partners. Also let this working session be creative in designing a campaign

which is capable to overcome behavior change barriers and clear out misconception so as to achieve the set objectives.

Dear team, my appeal to all of us; let us practice what we preach and please let us be role models to the community we are serving. For if this campaign does not work out to help us- the pioneers, and then we cannot expect it to be of any use to other lot of citizens who we are representing today.

Finally I would like to forward for your consideration the issue of sustainability. We would like to see this campaign to be sustained. Some plans should be in place because it is in our understanding that the support from donors has limitations both in amount and tenure. On behalf of the Government, TACAIDS pledges support in any way possible for success of this campaign and wishes you a fruitful session.

On his part, Hemed Shoko, BCC officer at the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW) assured his department's support to the Tuko wangapi-Tulizana mass media campaign.

There is no way that NACP can shy away from supporting these initiatives. What we all need to do is to ensure we don't send a conflicting messages or design messages that will overshadow the already existing initiatives, remarked Shoko, himself a specialist in mass media communication

Teacher Rapes, Infects 12 Girls with HIV

Police in Kuria West district are looking for a teacher who defiled 12 girls, infecting them with gonorrhoea and HIV. The 42-year-old husband of two worked at Nyamboge Primary School

in Nyabohanse.

Seven of the girls are in upper primary and the others in lower primary. The school headteacher Nicholas Marwa said one of the girls came forward last Friday prompting others to follow suit.

The teacher was suspended

on Friday. Area children's officer John Langat said another teacher reported the case to his office. The children's officer and the police Langat went to arrest the teacher but he got away.

The 12 girls were tested at Nyamboge and Isebania health

centres. He explained that some girls contracted gonorrhoea while others tested positive for HIV and gonorrhoea.

Kuria West police boss Paul Kiogora said they have recorded statements from the children, parents and teachers. "I know we are close to nabbing the culprit," he said.

Source: The Star