

WHY HEALTH CONSUMERS SHOULD BE ENGAGED?

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NDA STAKEHOLDERS MEETING
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THEME: ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS : IMPROVEMENT OF DRUG REGULATION IN
UGANDA
IMPERIAL ROYALE ,KAMPALA

Introduction

- Who is a health consumer?
- Why Health consumers should be engaged?

Patients and consumers of care must be at the centre in all efforts aimed at improving patient safety. (Patient for Patient Safety Programme)

This is mainly because 'when things go wrong, they are the ones who suffer harm'.



Health consumer perspectives on Drug Regulation in Uganda

- No control of procurement /sale of drugs
 - medicine dispensed without prescription
 - sale of drugs in market places and buses
 - Undefined/mixed roles of providers; clinics operating as drug stores, pharmacies prescribing and treating

Human resource capacity

- Inadequate personnel to handle and control drug safety
- ill trained personnel
- non qualified personnel operating drug outlets without any knowledge on handling drugs, storage
- Mushrooming illegal nursing schools-not regulated
- Quack health workers/dispensers operating clinics and drug stores

Substandard and counterfeit medicines

How many of us here have a husband, wife, child ,relative or friend taking medicines regularly?

- Threat of substandard and counterfeit medicine is real although there is inadequate data to determine the extent of the problem in Uganda.
- Low levels of awareness ; the public is not ware of the dangers of Counterfeit medicines e.g toxic, cause resistance and death
- Research is needed to determine extent of the problem to enable the designing of appropriate strategies

Weak laws

- Lenient Penalties for unregistered pharmacies and drug stores, substandard and counterfeit medicines
- Anti-counterfeiting goods bill, 2010 need to be popularised for health consumer input

Public awareness

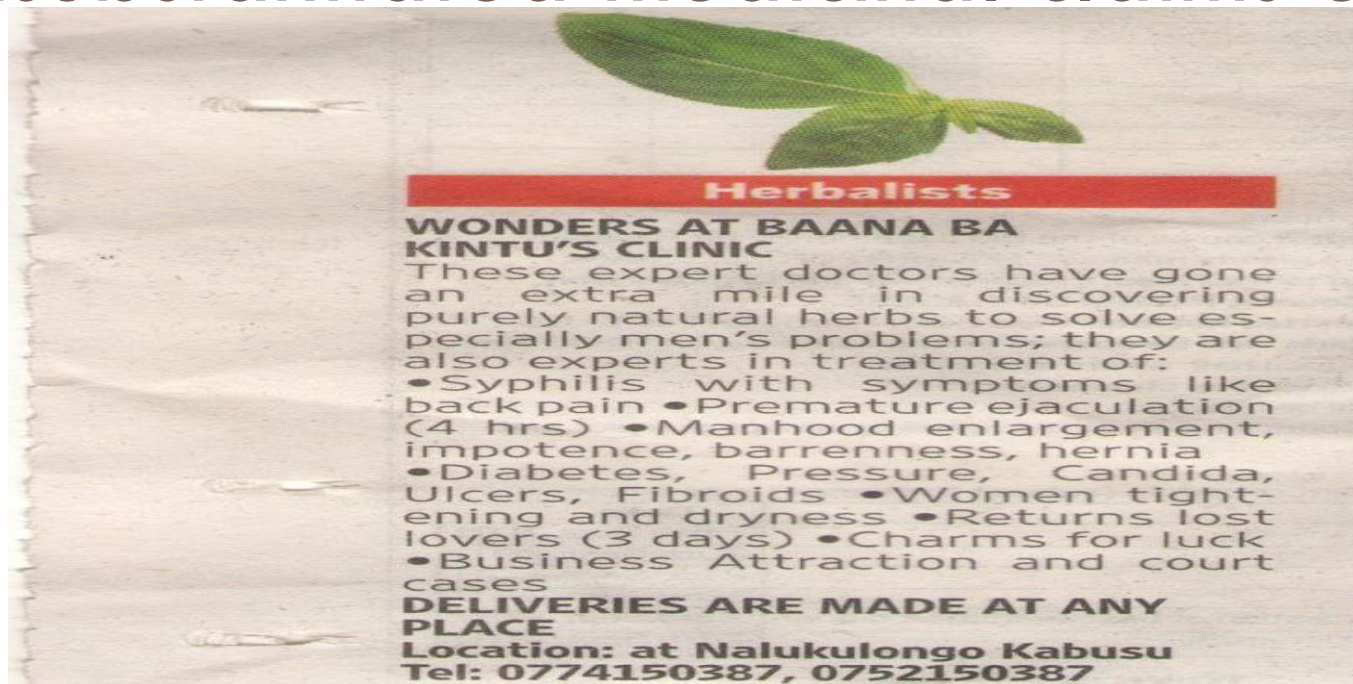
- Limited knowledge of the health consumer and general public on NDA activities, and how they can engage with NDA to improve drug regulation
- Low levels of awareness of health consumers on issues of rational medicines use, Pharmacovigilance and effective drug regulation

Promotion and marketing of drugs

- Not regulated and particularly traditional medicine

Traditional medicine- Uncontrolled advertising

The traditional practitioners make unsubstantiated medicinal claims e.g.



Herbalists

**WONDERS AT BAANA BA
KINTU'S CLINIC**

These expert doctors have gone an extra mile in discovering purely natural herbs to solve especially men's problems; they are also experts in treatment of:

- Syphilis with symptoms like back pain
- Premature ejaculation (4 hrs)
- Manhood enlargement, impotence, barrenness, hernia
- Diabetes, Pressure, Candida, Ulcers, Fibroids
- Women tightening and dryness
- Returns lost lovers (3 days)
- Charms for luck
- Business Attraction and court cases

DELIVERIES ARE MADE AT ANY PLACE

**Location: at Nalukulongo Kabusu
Tel: 0774150387, 0752150387**

Call for action

- Develop a Health consumer quality and safety awareness strategy
- Sensitise the public on drug safety through innovative approaches ;
 - Regular information on the need for and requirement of quality and safety of drugs eg registered drugs/drug stores, recalled products, counterfeit medicines on market
- Regular survey to determine knowledge levels/gaps/needs of health consumers
- Translate and integrate knowledge gained through surveys/evaluation into practice

Call for action

- Consumer representation on relevant committees/working groups
- Engage with traditional health practitioners to regulate and control their medicinal products
- Empower and use Health consumers as watch dogs
- Regular post market surveillance to monitor drug safety
- Stringent laws to curb illegal practice

Call for Action

- Meaningful involvement of private institutions, health consumer organisations, CSO's ,religious ,community leaders and health professionals in monitoring and reporting cases of mismanagement of medicinal products- targeting mushrooming drug shops, mobile medicine vendors, none-professional health practitioners, etc

Take safe medicine and live longer



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