



The Republic of Uganda

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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PRESS RELEASE

RESPONSE TO MISLEADING MEDIA REPORTS ON ANTIRETROVIRAL DRUG AVAILABILITY

Kampala, 20th March 2025 – The Ministry of Health has noted with concern the misleading and inaccurate report published in the *New Vision* on 18th March 2025, titled "*Panic as HIV Drug Supply Reduces.*" The assertions in this article are exaggerated and misrepresent the actual status of antiretroviral (ARV) drug availability in Uganda, thereby causing unnecessary fear and anxiety among the public.

The Ministry of Health would like to clarify the following:

- **ARVs remain available and free** in all public and Private Not-For-Profit (PNFP) health facilities. The Ministry, through the National Medical Stores (NMS) and Joint Medical Stores (JMS), distributes ARVs to over 2,000 health facilities every two months. Over the past two years, there have been no reported stockouts of ARVs.
- **Drug procurement remains unaffected** despite the ongoing United States Government executive order on re-evaluating and realigning foreign aid.
- **A shift towards a patient-centered model** is underway, integrating services for HIV/AIDS, TB, Hepatitis B, Hypertension, and Diabetes into routine outpatient and chronic care services across all healthcare levels. This long-planned reform enhances service delivery and addresses inefficiencies in vertical health programs.
- **Uganda's local pharmaceutical sector is growing**, with WHO-prequalified manufacturing at Quality Chemicals Uganda Limited in Luzira, Kampala. Since 2023, the company has been producing ARVs and anti-malarial medicines for both local and international markets.

The Ministry of Health calls upon media houses to uphold ethical reporting by verifying facts before publication. Misinformation on critical health matters can create unnecessary panic and hinder national HIV/AIDS response efforts. We urge responsible journalism that aligns with our shared goal of protecting public health.

Additionally, the Ministry remains committed to collaborating with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), People Living with HIV, and all stakeholders to ensure continuous access to HIV prevention, care, and treatment services. We also encourage CSOs to support treatment literacy campaigns to promote adherence and improve health outcomes for all people living with HIV.

We reassure all Ugandans that HIV prevention and treatment services remain accessible and free nationwide. The Government of Uganda remains fully committed to ensuring a steady supply of high-quality, effective antiretroviral treatment and we encourage all people living with HIV to fully utilize these essential services. This commitment is clearly outlined in the National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan 2020/21–2024/25. This is evidenced by Uganda’s progress towards the AIDS response where a total of 1.4 million people are currently on antiretroviral treatment achieving 89% viral suppression.



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