Comment

QUOTE OF THE DAY



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EDITORIAL

Govt must save us from fake herbal medicines

On a daily basis, people across the country are exposed to advertisements extolling herbal products that do not perform the functions that these advertisements claim they do.

These fake advertisements are broadcast on the radio, television, and posted on social media. Those behind these advertisements prey on the desperation of the populace, claiming that their herbal 'remedies' heal even diseases that are incurable, such as hypertension and diabetes.

As a result of their deceit, some people shun genuine modern medicine in favour of these bogus remedies.

This not only leads to wastage of money on these so-called remedies, but also endangers the lives of those who use them.

Some of these purported cures contain toxic substances, while others are prepared and packaged in unsanitary conditions, leading to disease-causing contaminations.

Furthermore, precious time is wasted using these fake medicines, and it is only when people realise that they don't work that proper medical attention is sought.

The issue:
Fake herbal medicine.

Our view:
The government should ensure that all health facilities have drugs and health workers to treat patients.

The government should also consider the distribution of free diabetes and hypertension drugs to the poor or subsidising the cost of these life-saving medications.

Unfortunately, sometimes the right decision is made when the condition of the patient has severely deteriorated.

Sometimes the patient is started on the right treatment when it is too late. Several people who could have been saved have, over the years, lost their lives because of these unscrupulous, money-hungry snake oil peddlers.

The situation is perpetuated by poverty, healthcare delivery challenges, and laxity in those responsible for safeguarding the populace against these charlatans and their harmful merchandise.

Some people are too poor to afford lifelong medication for ailments such as diabetes and hypertension. This forces them to use fake herbal remedies that falsely promise a cure.

Poor people who entirely depend on government health facilities, where treatment is free, are sometimes forced to resort to these fake remedies because of shortage of drugs in these facilities.

To protect the populace, the authorities must penalise radio and TV stations that broadcast fake herbal medicine advertisements. They must be fined and the licences of repeat offenders revoked.

Social media must also be monitored to ensure that it is not used as a platform to peddle these fake herbal medicines.

The charlatans who pay for these misleading advertisements must face the full force of the law.

Furthermore, the government should ensure that all health facilities have drugs and health workers to treat patients.

The government should also consider the distribution of free diabetes and hypertension drugs to the poor or subsidising the cost of these life-saving medications.

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