

aws NDA is wrong on drug shops ban

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EDITOR: Recently the National Drug Authority issued a directive that drug shops are to be phased out in municipalities and the city. The reason given was that drug shops must be transformed into pharmacies with a supervising pharmacist. The reason given appears to be weak.

Unlike in Rwanda, many pharmacies in Uganda continue to operate without pharmacists being physically present. Most of the time, the pharmacists appear at pharmacies once a month.

This makes Ugandan pharmacies more or less, drug shops. Business men running pharmacies tend to take advantage of the absence of pharmacists to sell all sorts of drugs, some even expired or illegal.

In Rwanda for example, a pharmacist must be a full time employee of the pharmacy. In Uganda it's the opposite. For this directive to make meaning, this should be strengthened.

In this regard, I consider reasons given by NDA to ban drug shops as flimsy.

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