

Girl suffers effects of wrong prescription

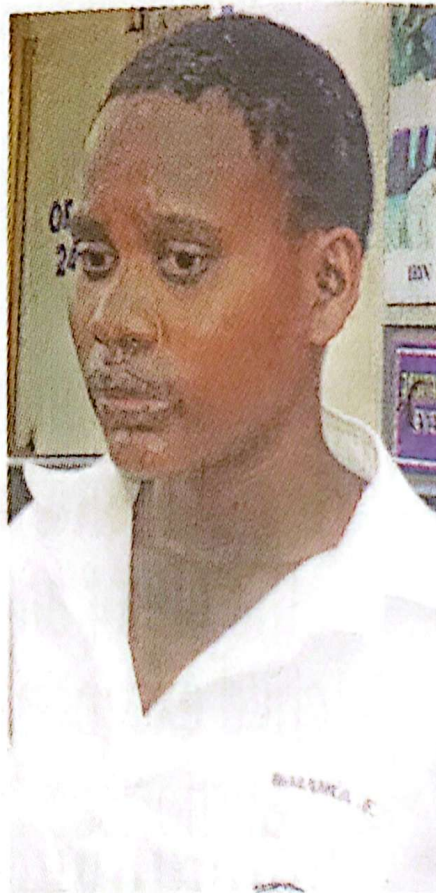
BY SAM BALAGADDE

In November 2016, Faith Baluku, an 18-year-old student of St John Kawuga Mukono, was sent back home for treatment. She had been diagnosed with a suspected fungal infection.

The parents, who hail from Bweyogere in Wakiso district, took her to a nearby KT Medical Centre in Bweyogerere - Buto for treatment. But her body immediately reacted to the medicine. When the condition persisted, she was referred to Nsambya Hospital.

Her father, Mathias Waswa, an employee with Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), said it was later discovered at Nsambya Hospital that she was given wrong prescription at KT Medical Centre, which caused the body reaction. In spite of the remedial medication, it was not possible to reverse all the effects the drug reaction had caused. Her skin and nails could not get back to normal as anticipated by the parents.

"What annoyed me most was the first health worker, who treated Baluku at KT Medical Centre, was unbothered about the deteriorating condition of my daughter. I decided to petition



Faith Baluku

the doctors, practitioners and Allied Council," the father said.

The council asked Michael Kayizzi Mubiru, the supervisor for the Central region, to handle the case. He interrogated all medical workers at KT Medical Centre including Elias Tugume, who worked on Baluku.

Kayizzi later discovered that Tugume, who gave the wrong prescription to Baluku, was a laboratory technician with a certificate qualification.

Under medical practice,

he was not supposed to administer the treatment.

Council, therefore, banned Tugume from further operations for three years. He was made to contribute toward the medical expenses for further treatment of Baluku up to a tune of sh4.5m.

"Baluku's scenario is among the many messes unqualified people in the health service cause to innocent members of the society," Kayizzi said.

"Some people have died, others have been left with permanent injuries. Yet many still go unreported," he said.

Kayizzi said towards the end last year, Baluku underwent a major eye operation in Mengo Hospital.

"The eye operation alone cost me sh3m and, so far, I have spent over sh15m to save my daughter's life. Though it is all over, my daughter has missed class for one year. Tugume really disorganised my daughter's life. I am grateful to God that she is still alive," Waswa said.

Kayizzi said according to his findings, KT Medical centre met the minimum requirements of the health facility of its grade and so, they did not close it. But Tugume was banned for three years.