

Man demands sh1.2b over wrong HIV diagnosis

By Andante Okanya

A man who claims to have lost a security guard job opportunity in Somalia over a 'wrong' HIV diagnosis, has sued a medical centre demanding \$528,800 (sh1.2b).

On February 22, Godfrey Ntaro filed a civil suit against The Surgery Limited, at the civil division of the High Court in Kampala.

Among the court documents attached are the different laboratory test results and receipts acknowledging payment.

The case was filed through three law firms: DeMott Law Advocates & Solicitors, Ayena Odongo & Company Advocates and Falcon Associated Advocates.

Ntaro accuses The Surgery of clinical negligence, purporting he was tested for HIV and the tests came out positive. He says he was meant to get a two-year contract, with \$1,200 monthly pay.

BETWEEN THE LINES:

■ Ntaro says The Surgery was grossly negligent, reckless and compelled him to commence taking anti-retroviral drugs, which resulted in severe side effects.

Ntaro says this year on February 2, he went to The Surgery's premises located on Plot 42, Naguru Drive in the city suburb of Naguru mandatory tests as demanded by the labour export firm.

He says a second opinion at Ebenezer Clinical Laboratory (on February 14) and a third at Joint Clinical Research Centre (February 20), both returned negative results.

Ntaro says the potential employers told him the HIV-positive results, automatically ruled him out of the lucrative opportunity.

"The results were thus submitted to the labour company, which found the plaintiff ineligible for employment in Somalia, and as such, his job offer was cancelled," court documents state.

"The plaintiff tried to impress this conundrum on the labour company where he had been shortlisted for employment, but the job opportunity was no longer available."

Ntaro says The Surgery was grossly negligent, reckless and compelled him to commence taking anti-retroviral drugs, which resulted in severe side effects.

He says the wrong diagnosis subjected him to physical pain and psychological torture. He says the ARVs were administered without conducting a counselling session.

Ntaro says The Surgery had the opportunity to redeem itself when he requested them to conduct another test, but management declined.

The Surgery Limited is yet to respond. A hearing date is yet to be fixed.