

Risky. Other expired drugs that the hospital staff were still administering to their clients were Nevirapine, alluvia and seprine.

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LIRA. Members of Parliament on HIV/Aids committee have discovered that some drugs given to HIV patients at Ogur Health Centre IV in Lira District are harmful.

The lawmakers were shocked when they reached the government health facility last Wednesday and discovered that HIV clients were accessing expired drugs.

Other drugs that the hospital staff were still administering to their clients were set to expire that very Wednesday. Among the drugs were Nevirapine, alluvia and seprine.

Patients were seen lining up at the facility as they waited impatiently to receive their share of the medication, while parliamentary committee members sorted expired drugs from the dispensary room.

“We are so disappointed that you have been feeding these innocent people on expired drugs, without minding of its effects on their body,” JUDITH ALYEK, PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON HIV/AIDS CHAIRPERSON

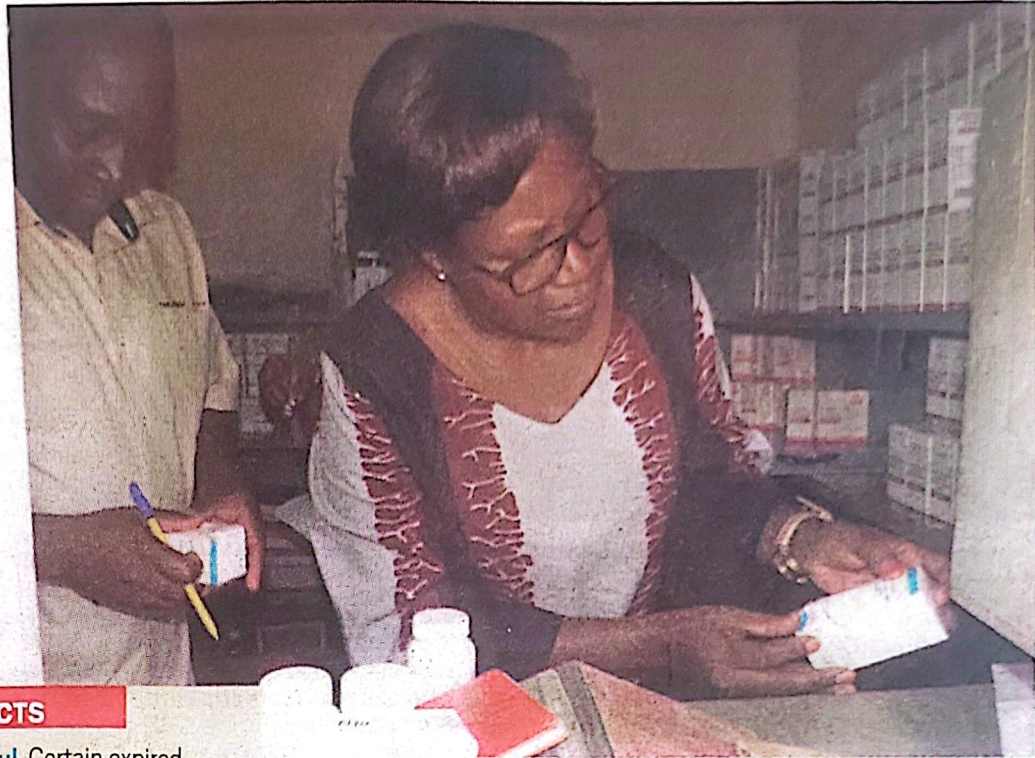
The parliamentary committee on HIV/Aids chairperson, Ms Judith Alyek, said the committee was disappointed to discover that innocent clients were being served with expired drugs.

“We are so disappointed that you have been feeding these innocent people on expired drugs, without minding of its effects on their body,” Ms Alyek said in a meeting with health workers.

Ms Alyek, who is Kole District Woman MP, said the government policy does not allow drugs expiring within three months to be dispensed to patients.

Dr Samuel Okori of Pope John Paul Hospital - Aber in Oyam District explained that after expiring, the drugs become harmful to the body,

MPs find expired HIV drugs in govt hospital



EFFECTS

Harmful. Certain expired medications are at risk of bacterial growth and sub-potent antibiotics can fail to treat infections, leading to more serious illnesses and antibiotic resistance.

Use of expired drugs may also be harmful to body due to change in active principle. It may produce adverse effects in certain cases which depend on types of drugs we use, according to ResarchGate.

adding that it is unethical for a medical practitioner to give expired drugs to their clients.

Search. Ms Judith Alyek, the Parliamentary Committee on HIV/AIDS chairperson (right) sorts out expired drugs at Ogur Health Centre on Wednesday. PHOTO BY ISAAC OTWII

Mr Geoffrey Ocen, a client from Otuke District, said he was so disappointed after being told that some of the drugs they were receiving from Ogur Health Centre had already expired.

“There are many people who do not check the expiry date of their drugs, especially elders and children,” he said.

Mr Bonny Opio, a clinical officer at the health centre, intimated that they would call for an emergency meeting with all the HIV clients to withdraw the doses given to them.

However, Mr Opio was unclear on the strategy they would employ to gather all the 4,435 clients who access specialised care and treatment at the facility.

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