

Born with HIV, worried about infecting wife



As Uganda prepares to commemorate the World AIDS DAY on December 1, Vision Group is spearheading the drive to get everybody involved in the fight against HIV. **Jackie Nalubwama** writes about Daniel Kawooya, who was born with HIV and is married. The couple has three children. Kawooya has since found himself in a dilemma failing to get ARVs from hospitals due to drug shortage in medical facilities.

My name is Daniel Kawooya, 29, and I was born with HIV. I got married to my wife, who is negative, after we had three children.

I, however, got to learn that I had the virus in 2002 when I was 12, after falling sick for such a long time that I could not stretch my back. I was so thin and had little hair on my head, which drew doctors to test me.

They found that I was HIV positive. I was then started on ARVs.

CHALLENGES

I found many challenges along the way because the time I had to swallow my ARVs when I was in class. So I used to sometimes ask teachers for permission to go to the toilet such that I could swallow the drugs; but they would decline. This led me to miss taking my medication on time.

In 2007, I fell sick again and was bedridden. The doctors checked me and found that my CD4 count was low.

The doctors said it was as a result of not swallowing my ARVs diligently.

I was then given ARVs Line 2 (Aluvia), which helped boost my immunity. Indeed, I was checked again and they found that my CD4 count had risen.

But for a while now, ARVs have been scarce and when I went back recently for more drugs, I was shocked to the core when I was given a dose for only three days.

WE NEED HELP

Worststill, it was not the same medication I was taking, but I was told that what I was given works the same way.

What scares me is that my wife, who is HIV-negative, may be at risk of getting

infected because the drugs I was taking previously have been helping us keep the virus at bay.

I also worry that with time, I could become susceptible to all manner of diseases because when the body gets weakened by the virus, one can become bedridden.

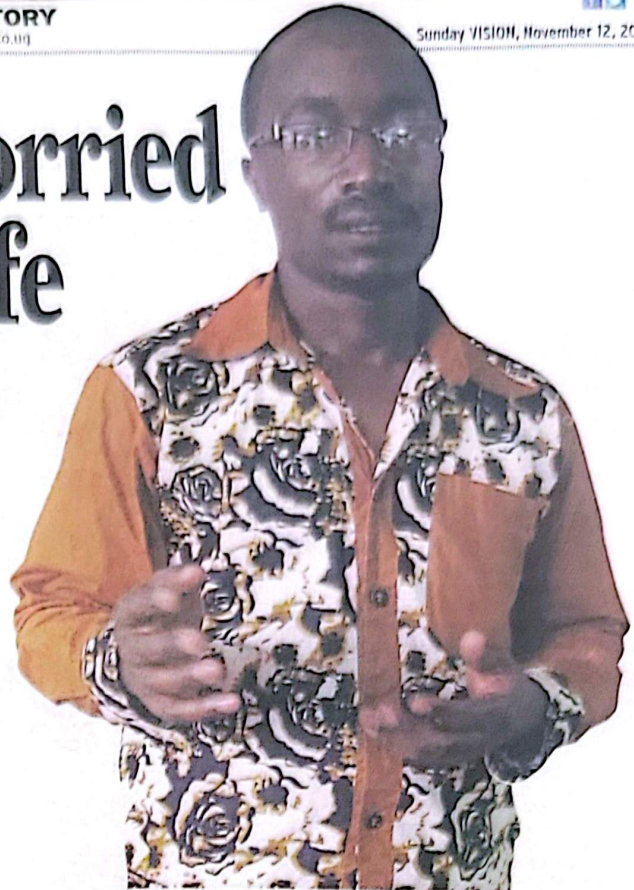
We have done everything doctors have advised us to do so as to live healthy lives.

But now that the drugs that were sustaining us are scarce and I cannot afford to buy them, my dreams seem to have come to an end.

I will first suffer mentally, as I mull over what my family will live on.

I wonder where I will get the drugs after the three days because the doctors said they ran out of ARVs in hospitals.

I urge the President and the Minister of Health to get us drugs so that we can live to raise our children.



Daniel Kawooya is living with HIV but has lately failed to get access to ARVs

HIV FACT FILE

THE 90-90-90 STRATEGY

The 90-90-90 strategy by 2020 was defined by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) as a way to achieve the end of HIV/AIDS. The 90-90-90 targets include having 90% of people living with HIV know their status, 90% of those who are diagnosed with HIV put on sustained antiretroviral therapy and 90% of those put on ARVs achieving viral suppression. Achieving this brings countries to an end of HIV/AIDS.

To reach this target, countries should try to get all their key populations to test for HIV. Testing facilities, kits, reagents, counselling and incentives such as treatment, should be up-scaled to reach in as widely as possible.

The Test and Treat method for all people with a positive diagnosis is

intended to significantly weaken the virus (viral suppression).

This not only enables people living with HIV to live longer, healthier lives, but also greatly reduces the risk of transmission.

The lower the viral load, the lower the risk of passing on HIV to another person.

The end of AIDS refers to a situation where those with HIV can neither pass it on nor progress to AIDS.

According to UNAIDS, Uganda's performance is commendable. 60% of adults living with HIV, between 15 and 64 years, are virally suppressed. This is close to the national target of 73% viral load suppression by 2020.

Compiled by Hilary Bainemigisha

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT



Mr. Tajdin Merali Jivraj (Haji Taju)

With deep sorrow we regret to announce the sad demise of **Mr. Tajdin Merali Jivraj (Haji Taju)** Of Royal Electronics Bombo Road originally from Mbarara Beloved Husband To Rozina & Father To Al Karim and Ali Shah Jivraj

Last funeral rites will be held on **Sunday 12th November 2017** at **Aga Khan Old Kampala Mosque** from **10:00am - 10:30 am**. There after will proceed to the **Ismaili Cemetery, Archer Road, Kololo** for the burial.

May his soul rest in eternal peace
AMEN