

will change and also the proposed

not adequately equip them.

"The National Graduate Service

He said that the proposed law is in line with the national develop-

quired to accept, one full year.

Global Fund gives Uganda Shs1.6 trillion to fight HIV, malaria

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KAMPALA. The Global Fund has given \$465m (more than Shs1.6 trillion) to boost the fight against HIV/Aids, tuberculosis and malaria in the country.

The new grant is supposed to be implemented for the period between 2018 to 2020 even as a statement communicating the new grant indicated there have been fears that the Global Fund may cut or drastically reduce its aid to Uganda after the November 2015 Audit report revealed millions of unspent money.

The audit report by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) based in Geneva, revealed \$3.9m (about

Shs13.9b) in inflated costs for anti-malaria drugs or lack of accountability.

The report also indicated that the funds were not being absorbed.

In a statement, the chairman to Uganda Country Coordinating Mechanism to the Global Fund, Prof Vinand Nantulya, said subsequent investigations revealed that although funds absorption was below par, there was no evidence of fraud.

"The differences in the accountability for the use of the money was more due to inadequate record keeping and information technology challenges," Prof Nantulya said.

He added: "It is, however, a warning to the country about the consequences if the funds are not utilised

properly." Under the new grant, HIV/Aids has been allocated \$255m (Shs908.9b), TB's allocation is \$21m (Shs75b) \$188m (Shs670.1b) will go towards the prevention and treatment of malaria.

In an interview yesterday, a health official who preferred anonymity, told the Daily Monitor that under the new mechanism, the funds which will not be absorbed by the end 2017 which is the grant implementation period, will be lost.

The source observed that during their end of year retreat this month, the under-secretary to the Ministry of Health, Mr Ronald Segawa Gyagenda, committed that all funds will have been utilised by end of next year.

When contacted, Mr Segawa said a newly created team is expected to meet in January 2017 to discuss an implementation strategy.

"We are committed to the implementation. We are supposed to work out a plan on how to absorb this money," he said, adding that he can clearly explain when he returns to office next week.

Global Fund

Global Fund support was reinstated in Uganda in 2009. Since then, Global Fund has committed \$800m (Shs2.8 trillion) to the fight against the three diseases.