

"If you are dissatisfied with my ruling, you have a right to appeal by Steven Katambula, said they are However, butchers in Kampala, led by Steven Katambula, said they are The closure operation came in the wake of a detailed *Saturday Vision* article.

Pharmacies stopped from running retail, wholesale at a go

By Martin Kitubi

The National Drug Authority (NDA) has stopped issuing licences to pharmacies offering both wholesale and retail services due to compromising patients' privacy. Donna Kusemererwa, the executive director of NDA,

revealed to *New Vision* that the new rule will affect new pharmacies, but those in existence will be given time to separate retail from wholesale business.

"Patients' privacy, especially on diseases and drugs, has been deprived and they complain about pharmacies

offering both wholesale and retail," she said.

Kusemererwa added that the authority is finalising with new guidelines which will direct on the separation of retail and wholesale services at existing pharmacies in the country, but it will immediately take effect after phasing out drug shops.

NDA has also tightened restrictions on the movement or change of location of pharmacies from one place to another, a move intended to improve on monitoring and supervision.

"It is a big challenge to monitor and supervise pharmacies which often change locations. If the licence issued to a pharmacy specifies Wandegaya, the pharmacy shall not move to Nakasero or other places," she explained.

Kusemererwa said transferring pharmacies means a pharmacy will be a new one and it will be required to be re-registered and licensed afresh.

The new restrictions follow a directive by NDA, which requires drug shops located in the city, municipalities and town councils to either transform into pharmacies or shut down.

While addressing journalists at the Uganda Media in Kampala on Wednesday, Kusemererwa said pharmacies are stocked with all types of drugs and can sufficiently serve the population.

Kusemererwa yesterday highlighted that the one-and-a-half kilometre radius law between drug shops and pharmacies, was established in 2014, but drug shop operators failed the implementation



Kusemererwa

by running to Parliament for arbitration.

"We have been silent on the law after operators complained to Parliament," she said, adding that they cannot lie back any more.

However, she advised operators of drug shops to co-operate and also move to places, especially rural areas, where there are fewer drug shops.

Operators respond

Sylvia Amutuhire runs a drug shop in Kifumbira zone off Mawanda Road in Kamwokya, a business she set up after graduating with a bachelor's degree in nursing.

Amutuhire said her little

finances will not enable her to transform and expand the pharmacy.

"I welcome any move to improve the sector. However, telling me to transform a drug shop into a pharmacy within a year, is like instructing me to be jobless, because I do not have funds," she said.

Amutuhire registered her pharmacy between 15 and 20 years ago. She said she has been paying taxes and operating licences to different authorities without any issue.

Hannah Nabitaka, proprietor of Medicare shop in Mulago, said: "I will pay all operational and licensing fees for drug shops because we have money and yet we are quarantined practitioners."

Amutuhire said she has paid different fees annually including sh400,000 for an operational licence to Kampala Capital City Authority and sh300,000 to the Medical Council of Uganda for a permit and sh50,000 to renew her practicing licence.

Steven Nuwagaba, a resident of Kyebando, a Kampala suburb, urged the Government to allow drug shops to operate at a price that is not stressing that they provide services cheaply, compared to pharmacies.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT



M/S KIBOIJANA, KAKUBA & CO. ADVOCATES
with deep sorrow announce the untimely demise of their beloved Senior Partner **Mr. KAKUBA GERALD** which occurred on **11th January, 2018** at **St. Francis Hospital Nsambya.**

Informed are Justices of the Courts of Judicature, the entire legal fraternity, our esteemed clients, family, friends and relatives.

A requiem Mass will be celebrated at **Our Lady Consolata Catholic Church Bweyogerere** on **Saturday, 13th January 2018 at 10:00am** and **burial will be on Sunday, 14th January 2018 at the family home at Nyakiganda, Kanyansheko Parish, Nyabuhikye, Ibanda District** starting at **12noon.**

SENIOR COUNSEL GERALD KAKUBA

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN ETERNAL PEACE.