

Female panty condom to be introduced

BY VIOLET NABATANZI

WOMEN who are finding it challenging to use the current female condoms now have an option. Panty condoms are set to be introduced in the country this year.

The panty condoms, which are being manufactured in Colombia, are currently being researched on in Uganda. They are used in Latin America, Germany and the US.

The director of Samasha Medical Foundation, Dr Moses Muwonge, said the research on the panty condom is being done by Prof. Pauline Byakika.

Speaking during a science café organised by Health Journalists Network in Uganda (HEJNU), Muwonge said once the study is completed, they will present the findings to National Drug Authority (NDA) for approval and his organisation will distribute them in Uganda and other African countries. A woman can wear a female panty condom 24 hours before the sexual intercourse.

The national condom co-ordination officer in the HIV/AIDS control programme at the health ministry, Vastha Kibirige, said the panty condom, if approved, will not



Muwonge displays a panty condom, which is set to be introduced in the country. Photo by Violet Nabatanzi

replace the current female condom, but women will have a choice as to which condom they prefer.

She expressed concern that some people are using free condoms to light charcoal stoves.

Kibirige said in 2009, the Government re-introduced a new type of female condom after people complained that the then female condoms was making noise during sexual intercourse.

“We are educating the public to use condoms correctly. The old female condoms were rejected by the population because they were making noise. The new type is good

and is softer than the old ones,” she said.

About two million female condoms are needed annually compared to 240 million male condoms. Kibirige said the country depends on donations from the Global Fund, UNFPA and USAID, adding that this is why they want total market approach, so that people who can afford can buy condoms.

“We are updating a National Condom Strategy, we want to follow the total market approach. The donations are reducing and we think that people should be able to buy condoms. By doing so, condoms will not be wasted,” she said.