

Fake cancer drugs flood market - medics

Effect. Medics say the fake medication causes patients to develop diarrhoea.

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KAMPALA. Doctors at the Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI) have said unscrupulous people are duping patients into buying herbs they claim cure cancer.

"These people tell patients that cancer treatment is bad and they are giving them concoctions. The medicines cause diarrhoea and with the promise that it flushes out cancer [cells]," Dr Henry Ddungu, a haematology consultant at UCI, said yesterday.

He made the revelation while addressing journalists at the Ministry of Health headquarters in Kampala ahead of the World Cancer Day slated for Sunday.

Dr Ddungu also said

patients are told not to eat any food, adding that by the time they come to UCI for treatment, it is too late to save their lives.

“Patients come when there are malnourished as if they have been suffering from Kwashiorkor. The public needs to know about cancer and should understand that its treatment is not dangerous.”

DR HENRY DDUNGU,
HAEMATOLOGY CONSULTANT

He said the fake cancer treatment is being supplied in arcades and shopping malls in downtown Kampala.

Dr Charles Olaro, the director clinical services, who read the press statement on behalf of

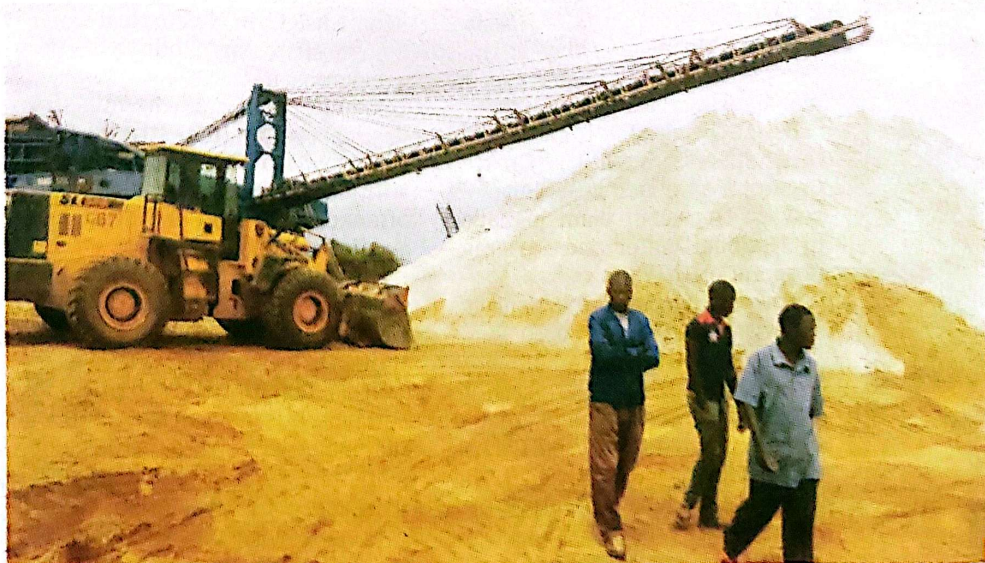
Health Minister, Dr Jane Ruth Aceng, called for public awareness.

"Cancer affects everyone in different ways, and everyone has the power to take action to reduce the impact of the disease on individuals, families and communities," Dr Olaro said.

Prevention

He said research indicates that more than a third of all cancers are preventable through simple lifestyle measures such as no smoking, eating healthy foods such as fresh fruits and vegetables, keeping physically active and reducing alcohol consumption.

Dr Ddungu indicated that more than 4,500 new cancer cases were registered at the UCI while the cancer incidence rate stands at 300 cases per 100,000 of the population.



Environment concern: Some of the sand that is collected at Mango Tree Group site from Lake Victoria. PHOTO BY JOSEPH KIGGUNDU

Army asked to intervene in sand mining