

UGANDA GETS FIRST HIV PREVENTION DRUG DOSES

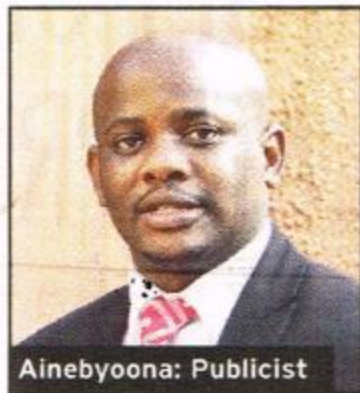
By John Musenze

Uganda yesterday received 19,200 of the expected 94,560 doses of Lenacapavir, a long-acting injectable drug that prevents HIV infection.

The Ministry of Health spokesperson, Emmanuel Ainebyoona, said the shipment arrived with funding from the Global Fund.

"The initial consignment of

19,200 doses of Lanacapavir from the Global Fund has arrived in Uganda. The drug is administered every six months to prevent HIV among persons with substantial risk of acquiring HIV. They will be distributed to high-burden and high-incidence districts effective March 2026," Ainebyoona posted on the X platform. Dr Herbert Kadama, the national Pre-



Ainebyoona: Publicist

Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) co-ordinator, recently said the drug will initially be rolled out in about 300 public and private not-for-profit (faith-based) health facilities across the country.

In total, 47,280 people in high-risk populations will receive the drug free of charge.

The priority groups include adolescent girls and young women aged 15-24, pregnant

and breastfeeding mothers, female sex workers and their male clients. Other key populations include fishermen, long-distance truck drivers and people in multiple sexual partnerships.

Ainebyoona told *New Vision* that the process of applying for the drug will be decided later and announced at the launch, expected in March.

Approximately 1.5 million

Ugandans are living with HIV, with about 1.3 million currently on antiretroviral therapy.

Globally, Lenacapavir has been rolled out for HIV prevention and treatment in the US and Brazil, as well as in several African countries.

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