

Uganda: Aids Story Successful Only Because of Interest in Donations

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In the early days, Aids epidemic patients were treated worse than criminals.

They were humiliatingly stigmatised, segregated and left to live helplessly in squalor as scum of the earth. They were barbarically condemned to die in lonely isolation. At the same time, the pandemic continued to kill people. Many sufferers drank frightening medicinal mixtures with unmentionable ingredients. Under the circumstances Ugandans accepted that dying of Aids was inevitable.

It was not until Uganda received huge donations to enable people access ARV treatment, that thousands of Ugandans jumped to the bandwagon of self-seeking greedy hyenas under false pretences, of caring for Aids patients. These are the victims they had discarded in the pit of destitution.

Squadrons of dubious NGOs, like those formed to "share" Global Funds bounty were created supposedly to benefit Aids/HIV sufferers. Their sole target was to enrich officials since "in Aids there is money".

Money continuously poured into the country which the self-styled Aids "experts" and "workers" treated as manna from heaven. If the country was not flooded with Aids funds very few would genuinely be interested in the plight of Aids patients. That's why I never believed in the monotonous obsolete hype of praising Uganda as the "success story".

Of course there are some few devoted Aids carers, like commendable Taso, but are a mere drop in the ocean of sharks. How much did Taso receive from the Global Fund compared to millions carelessly splashed out? Shrewd and crafty Ugandans believe that countries which deny existence of the virus are stupid and will die poor.

Without receiving Aids begging letters from South Africa or Zimbabwe, donors inaccurately base their Uganda's "success story" on the billions they release in response to myriad pressing begging Aids appeals from the country.

They naively assume funds to be wholly and exclusively deployed for Aids/HIV treatment. Aids statistics which excite donors may not be worth the papers on which they are written. The lying thieves manipulate figures to cover massive fraud and secure more money from "ignorant" benefactors.

It is a pure misconception to glorify Uganda as a "success" example of fighting Aids. How do you reconcile "Mulago staff mistreat HIV mothers/babies" (Daily Monitor 27/3) with the hype of Uganda's "success story"? When a lie is continuously repeated, it becomes a "fact" - like that one which ran during Amin's era, that there was a "talking" nfudu (tortoise) which used to "predict" Amin's fate and Uganda's future.

How many intended Aids beneficiaries have gained from billions donated compared to the ill-gotten riches accumulated by the well connected who divert the funds to

their personal advantage? How many intended beneficiaries have had access to Global Funds which the untouchables have treated as a windfall and their piggy banks?

As a donor (being a British tax payer) and supposed "beneficiary"(a Uganda peasant) I, together with numerous "kyeyo" drudges have passionate double and unique interest in Aids, Global and other donations' "expenditure."

The Ogoola commission is exposing incredible financial deception where money is freely frittered away to line pockets of the well connected.

I despise their arrogance because they are nothing without my donations. The commission has portrayed the ministry of Health, among many culprits, as riddled with corruption, nepotism and blundering incompetence which may be even worse in other government ministries.

Why waste billions on conferences, seminars, travels and "training" people (if we were to believe their deceptions) in HIV/Aids counselling, when there are already well equipped hospitals with trained staff to which the funds should have been allocated throughout all Uganda hospitals and health centres?

Ironically none of the hospitals desperate for funds features among Global Funds recipients. Why does Major Rubaramira Ruranga HIV/Aids devoted activist, who knows more about the pandemic than any of the deprived pretenders, not appear in the list of those who received millions?

Why waste billions on politicians and their appendages who are illiterate and novice in health/Aids matters, when there are already professionals including many trained unemployed who could render professional and useful services to the hapless patients? Millions were again squandered on "aids awareness".

Who in today's Uganda is so "backward" to be ignorant of the epidemic which has decimated thousands all over the country?

Unfortunately about these commissions, they only have the effect of "recycling" thieves or "retire" them in the so called "public interest." God help Uganda.

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