

# Hearing of fake ARVs case postponed

**By Karama Kenyunko**

THE Kisumu Resident Magistrate's Court yesterday adjourned the hearing of a counterfeit Antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) case facing the CCM Chairman for Dar es Salaam Region, Ramadhan Madabida and five others due to absence of the Magistrate who presides over the case.

The prosecution led by State Attorney, Pius Hilla told the court that the case came up for its first hearing yesterday but Resident Magistrate, Nyigulila Mwaseba was indisposed and had requested the court to set another date for the hearing.

Resident Magistrate Devotha Kisoka adjourned the case on behalf of Mwaseba until September 3, this year when it comes up for hearing.

Madabida who is also Chief Executive Officer for Tanzania Pharmaceutical Industries (TPI) is accused along with Director of Operations, Seif Shamte, TPI Marketing Manager, Simon Msofe and Fatma Shango, TPI Assistant Accountant.

Others are Medical Store Department (MSD) Quality Assurance Manager, Sadiki Frank Materu and MSD Quality Assurance Officer, Evans Mwemezi.

They are all facing five counts including supplying counterfeit drugs, obtaining

money by false pretences, neglecting to prevent commission of the offence and occasioning a loss of 148.3m/- .

According to charge sheet, it is alleged that between April 5 and 11, 2011 within the city of Dar es Salaam, the accused (Madabida, Shamte, Msofe and Shango) being officers of TPI supplied to the MSD a total of 12,252 Tins of counterfeit Antiretroviral drugs.

The accused allegedly supplied the drugs purportedly containing ingredients stavudine 30mg, Vevirapine 200mg, Lamivudine 150mg with batch number OC 01.85 manufactured in March, 2011

and expiring in February 2013 pretending to be genuine Antiretroviral drugs.

The prosecution alleged that, the accused obtained from the MSD, USD 98,506 equivalent to 148,350,156.48/- by false pretence that the said money was the payment for the Tins of genuine antiretroviral drugs.

The prosecution further alleged that Materu and Mwemezi being employees of MSD knowing that there was a plan to commit the offence, failed to use all reasonable means to prevent it.

All the accused are out on bail.