

Quality ARVs available nationwide, Aids body assures

By LAWRENCE
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TANZANIA Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) yesterday assured availability of anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs), maintaining that quality ARVs are available across the country.

TACAIDS chairperson Dr Fatma Mrisho, speaking in Dar es Salaam during a meeting which brought together AIDS stakeholders within and outside the country to discuss the effectiveness and efficiency of implementation of the national AIDS programme yesterday, said enough quality ARVs were available nationwide.

"It once happened in a short period between January and February, this year, that ARVs delayed in arriving in the country, the main problem being where they were being manufactured, but since then the government had taken emergency measures by dispatching a plane to bring the drugs so as to ensure that nobody is affected," she said.

She therefore urged AIDS patients not to worry about the availability of ARVs and that they should continue to use drugs as they had been instructed by doctors. Speaking about the effectiveness and efficiency of implementation of the national AIDS programme, Dr Mrisho said their target was ensuring that they reached the intended goals with the available resources.

She said financial resources for AIDS programmes had decreased all over the world due to the world economic depression, as well as increase in the challenges to be addressed, thus forcing them to focus on key areas.