

IUU starts campaign against self-medication

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KAMPALA. The Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU) has launched a new campaign to mitigate the dangers of self-medication, particularly the use of antibiotics, which they say has resulted in Antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The World Health Organization (WHO), says AMR threatens the effective prevention and treatment of an ever-increasing range of infections caused by bacteria, parasites, viruses and fungi and is an in-

creasing threat to global public health that requires action across all government sectors and society.

Antibiotics also known as antibacterials, are medications that destroy or slow down the growth of bacteria.

Addressing the media at the launch of the campaign at IUIU Kampala campus on Friday, the university rector, Dr Ahmed Kawesa Ssendendo, said there is a need to sensitise the public about the effects of self-medication because it affects their health without noticing.

“This campaign aims at sensitising the public against self-

medication, which health experts blame for antimicrobial resistance rise, warning that if this is not worked on early, the situation is likely to worsen,” he said.

WORLD BANK RECORDS

Figures. The World Bank estimates that by 2050, antimicrobial resistance could lead to a decline in animal productions by up to 7.5 per cent and increase extreme poverty by up to 28 million people by 2050.

The intake of drugs without prescription from a competent doctor is the simplest way to define self-medication.

The medicines such as antibiotics are often referred to as ‘over the counter’ or ‘non-prescription’, and are found in pharmacies, supermarkets and other outlets.

Dr Issa Makumbi, the director public health emergence operations at the Ministry of Health, told the *Sunday Monitor* that antimicrobial resistance is a global issue with serious effects due to the growing health and economic threats to people and animals.