

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH



CLARIFICATION ON MEDIA REPORTS OF THE AVAILABILITY OF PROSTATE CANCER HERBAL MEDICINE

14 July 2019

The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) is a governmental research institute under the Ministry for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children that carries out health research and promotes the utilization of research results based on health priorities in the country. NIMR also regulates the carrying out of health research in the country.

NIMR has a traditional medicine research department which carries out research on herbal and alternative remedies some of which have been used for centuries in our African setting. The traditional medicine research department represented NIMR this year at the Sabasaba fair grounds in the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) booth to showcase innovations in research. Media houses that interviewed exhibitors at the booth have reported that our research scientist stated that NIMR has discovered herbal medicine that cures prostate cancer. Due to the sensitivity of the matter and taking into serious account the suffering of patients with prostate cancer NIMR would like to clarify and correct the reports.

It is true that one of the herbal remedies that NIMR has formulated has shown indication towards alleviating symptoms in patients with prostate gland enlargement. It has not shown any indication to cure prostate cancer. This potential remedy is still at the stage of research observation. Our main aim in exhibiting at the Sabasaba fair was to showcase innovations in health research that have the potential to eventually become available in the market as herbal remedies after following the proper channels for registration and not to announce the availability of a new prostate cancer drug. We apologize to all those who have been affected by the reports.

NIMR continues to support the government of Tanzania in providing evidence-based information and solutions for health.

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