Pharmacists disown Obel

Govt warns over unregistered drugs

By LILIAN NDUTA

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The .controversial Aids drug Pearl

Omega will be officially registered

on Monday, its researcher, Prof Arthur

Obel, said yesterday.

Prof Obel, who was answering

questions at Kenyatta University,

where he delivered a lecture on advances

in Aids research, parried a

question on whether he had followed the stipulated procedure in having the drug registered.

. He accused the World Health Organisation

of harbouring "a hidden

agenda by pledging to supply Kenya's HIV positive pregnant women

with AZT, while they knew it

had serious side-effects.

"Is it not an insult for WHO

technocrats to visit our country and

promise us AZT· while we know

that those who use this treatment

die within 18 months, not because

of Aids-related diseases but due to

severe bone marrow depression"

he asked. '

He claimed that all condoms exported

to Third World countries were laced with the Aids virus, "As I travelled around the world, I took

samples of condoms marked for export

to Africa and other developing

'countries and did tests on them and

found they were all laced with the

virus," he said.

The discussion was chaired by

the Vice-Chancellor, Prof George

Eshiwani and Prof James Waithaka,

Prof F.M. Muthuri, Prof K.

Wambari and Prof Jude J. Ongonga

took part. Prof Obel defended his silence

on the composition of his drug, saying

he would not disclose its' formula

for fear that "intellectual property

thieves" would steal it.

He said he did not embark on research

for commercial gain but was

inspired by a desire to find a cure

after his first Aids patient died in

1984.

"My primary aim was to get an

agent which would destroy the

cause of the disease without destroying the host," he told the

cheering students .

The professor said he was giving

out the drug for free to needy Kenyans, He had given 25 cartons to

Moi University,

In Mombasa, the Pharmaceutical

Society of Kenya yesterday disowned

Prof Obel over his claim that

Pearl Omega was a genuine cure for

Aids.

, The Secretary, Dr Rogers Abete.

said it was illegal for anyone to advertise

unregistered drugs.

Drugs influx worries Ministry -

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