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THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

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Guidance
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KAMPALA,
UGANDA

PRESS STATEMENT ON 12th July 2020

Let us keep Calm and Peaceful

Government of Uganda would like to thank everyone who is doing their best to ensure that they observe the existing guidelines on COVID-19.

It is this commitment and the tireless work of our front line health workers that has enabled the country to register zero deaths so far with majority of patients being treated successfully.

As you may recall, about one month ago, government embarked on the process of procuring locally made face masks. So far six million masks have been distributed in 22 districts and the process is continuing.

Some of the districts that have so far got masks include Arua, Ajumani, Amuru, Moyo, Kyotera, Masaka, Soroti, Busia, Tororo, Mbarara, Ntungamo and others.

However there have been some unfortunate cases of local leaders being involved in the sale of these face masks to the public. Government would like to remind everyone that the government face masks are free and every Ugandan six years and above is entitled to a free mask.

All local leaders responsible for distributing the masks have been facilitated for the process and therefore are expected to do their work without charging any fee. We encourage members of the public to be vigilant and report any cases of local leaders asking for money in return.

Secondly I would like to inform the country that the process of returning citizens stranded abroad is moving on smoothly. So far about half of the number of Ugandans that were stranded in different parts of the world has returned and are being kept in different quarantine centers for observation.

The process of returning Ugandans was only put on hold for a few weeks to allow the decongestion of the quarantine centers. Very soon flights will resume returning all the remaining Ugandans.

I also want to inform the public that government is working hard to ensure key sectors such as boda bodas, arcades, saloons and places of worship are reopened.

Government has been consulting leaders in from these sectors to ensure that proper safety measures are in place when operations resume. Very soon a communication will be made based on the agreed upon measures.

I therefore want to call upon everyone to remain calm and peaceful as we await the resumption of operations. Let us avoid being used by selfish individuals calling for demonstrations and other acts that are illegal and may lead to loss of life.

Today we have also been joined by individuals from two different sectors and they would like to share with us some words of wisdom.

We have Dr Peter Kaddu. Dr Kaddu is a medical practitioner under Ministry of Health and also Director of Living Goods Uganda.

We also have Mrs Joanita Kawalya Muganga from the Association of Female Performing Artists.

But before they come over to speak, I want to remind everyone to continue observing the existing Presidential Guidelines and Ministry of Health guidance on wearing the face masks all the time you go out in public. Washing hands with soap regularly and social distancing.

For God and my Country

Thank you

Judith Nabakooba (MP)

Minister ICT & National Guidance