



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

**PRESS STATEMENT ON THE FIRE THAT GUTTED THE MINISTRY
OF HEALTH HEADQUARTERS**

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PERMANENT SECRETARY

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PRESS STATEMENT

Fellow Ugandans,

Ministry of Health experienced a fire outbreak on Sunday January 8th, 2017, at 2: 00 pm, on Wing B of the third floor.

This fire affected five (5) offices, which include, that of the Commissioner Quality Assurance, Assistant Commissioner Quality Assurance, Secretary to Assistant Commissioner Child Health, Assistant Commissioner Reproductive Health, and that of Senior Health Educator - Health Promotion and Education.

The cause of the fire could not be established immediately, but Police Fire Brigade came in swiftly and contained the fire before it spread to the other offices.

Subsequently, the Ministry of Health was declared a crime scene and got sealed off until Monday evening, to allow the police assess the extent of damage, pick all necessary info, and fully evaluate the safety of the affected section without interruption.

The investigation team constituted, among others, the CIID, an ICT team from police, electrical engineers from UMEME, and forensic experts from the Government Analytical Laboratories.

On Tuesday, January 10th, the Ministry of Health offices were re-opened and are now fully operational. The affected section remains sealed off as police investigations continue.

We would like to inform the public that the origin and cause of the fire is under investigation by a fully competent multi-sectoral team of experts, and a comprehensive report shall be availed to the public and all stakeholders as soon as we get it.

We request our staff to remain calm as we find alternative office space for the officers who were affected by the fire. The public is hereby notified that the services at the Ministry of Health are continuing normally, without interruption.

Ministry of Health management is eternally grateful to the Police Fire Fighters and Security Officers onsite, who promptly responded to control the fire; otherwise the effect could have been more devastating.

We also want to appreciate individual staff and members of the public who used everything in their means to see to it that the fire is extinguished in good time.

Ministry of Health commits to continued strengthening of internal safety mechanisms to avert possible similar occurrences in the future.



For God and My Country

Dr. Diana Atwine

Permanent Secretary.