



The Republic of Uganda

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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PRESS RELEASE

MINISTRY OF HEALTH CALLS FOR EQUAL TREATMENT FOR ALL PATIENTS IN ALL HEALTH FACILITIES IN UGANDA

Kampala; 25th October 2019. Attention has been drawn to the Ministry of Health regarding a patient who was allegedly assaulted by a medical doctor at a private medical facility in Kabalagala, a Kampala suburb.

It is reported that on 19th October 2019, the patient had visited the facility to seek consultation from an eye specialist for spectacles. It is alleged that after a short conversation, the doctor suspected her to be part of the LGBT group because he was worried that the patient, being a family friend, could be an influence to some members in his household.

After the occurrence of the incident, the patient reached out for help and a friend took her to a nearby clinic. The patient also filed a case with the Kabalagala Police Station under file number KAB: 44/19/10/019 Assault C/S 236 of the PCA. Ministry of Health followed up the patient and found she was well investigated, treated and is steadily recovering. This case has been referred to Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioners Council (UMDPC) for further handling.

In the same vein, there have been a number of isolated cases of assault towards members of sexual minorities. One of the most recent cases involves a Rwandan refugee who was allegedly beaten up by unknown persons in Kampala and suffered severe blows to his head. He was taken to Mulago National Referral Hospital where tests and scans fortunately revealed no skull damage. The patient experienced tissue damage but has since been discharged after receiving treatment. The Minister of Health continues to follow the case closely.

It is in the policy of Ministry of Health that all patients should be able to seek medical treatment without fear of discrimination, violence, personal vengeance or retaliation. We appeal to all health care providers and stakeholders to accord equal and appropriate treatment to all patients who present at the health facilities irrespective of their race, tribe and gender.

We also strongly condemn assault and violence against any individual and appeal to the public to report any such incidents to the relevant authorities. In particular, we request the public to

report any medical-related abuse to the Ministry of Health through its toll-free line 0800-100-066.



Hon. Dr Aceng Jane Ruth
MINISTER

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