



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION AT OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WHO HAS NOT APPROVED COVID-19 MEDICINE IN UGANDA

KAMPALA UGANDA, 10th MARCH 2022: Science, Technology and Innovation at Office of the President (STI-OP) would like to correct media reports that the World Health Organization or REACT has as part of their visit, approved or endorsed any Ugandan herbal drug as a treatment for COVID-19, a process which is subject to established processes and protocols that have not yet taken place.

For clarification, the Government of Uganda is hosting a delegation from the World Health Organization (WHO), specifically the Regional Expert Advisory Committee on Traditional Medicine for COVID-19 Response (REACT). The team is in the country to provide technical support and expert advice to the Government, particularly the Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I-OP), the Ministry of Health, the National Drug Authority, Academic institutes and other stakeholders as Uganda develops its natural therapeutics Industry.

Since their arrival in the country, the delegation has had an opportunity to meet with various actors including herbalists, scientists and researchers as they assess our capacities and capabilities for natural therapeutics research and production. The delegation also visited the DEI Biopharma factory where they were shown an example of the emerging capacity for pharmaceutical manufacturing.

STII-OP wishes to clarify that WHO/ REACT has Neither approved nor endorsed any COVID-19 medicine in the country. This is a purely fact-finding mission. For WHO to endorse any drugs, a global scientific technical body is in place to implement that.

The Government of Uganda remains committed to the development of traditional medicine through established frameworks and protocols, and will continue to engage relevant partners and develop local capacity in pursuit of this aspiration.

Dr. Monica Musenero Masanza,

Minister for Science Technology and Innovation, Office of the President (ST&I-OP)