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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT URGING GOVERNMENT TO PRIORITIZE FUNDING FOR THE HEALTH SECTOR.

(Presented under Rule 55 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament of Uganda)

WHEREAS the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda under Article 90(1) establishes Committees of Parliament, mandated under Rule 156 (c) of the Rules of Procedure to assess and evaluate activities in their respective fields;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with Article 90 (1), Parliament under Rule 183 (2) (c) established the Committee of Health as a Sectoral Committee with the function of examining and commenting on policy matters affecting the Ministry;

FURTHER WHEREAS on 12th March, 2019 Hon. Jane Ruth Aceng, the Minister of Health presented a Ministerial Statement to Parliament on the state of the health service delivery in Uganda wherein she noted that the health sector is mandated to provide the highest possible level of health services to all people in Uganda through delivery of promotive, preventive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative health services at all levels;

AWARE OF the Constitutional mandate required of the Committee of Health and directive by the Rt.Hon. Speaker to extract areas from the Ministerial statement that require urgent attention of government, the Committee has identified the following areas together with the required budgetary allocation for the urgent attention of Government;

- 1. Health infrastructure; the Committee notes that there is a big health infrastructure gap as illustrated below;
 - (a) 39 districts have no hospitals, 29 constituencies have no Health Centre IVs, 331 Sub-counties have no HC III's and 132 Subcounties have no health facility at all; a minimum of UGX 150 bn is required for the establishment and operationalization of health facilities;

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- (b) The thirteen Regional Referral and five National Referral Hospitals (Mulago NRH, Butabika National Mental Referral Hospital, Kiruddu, Kawempe, and Entebbe Specialized National Referral Hospitals) are not fully functional due to inadequacy in funding, specialized human resources and equipment; Shs UGX 105 bn should be allocated for the purchase of assorted diagnostic equipment for all Regional Referral Hospitals across the country.
- (c) There is a big funding gap for the specialized hospitals to be fully functional in providing the specialized services required. For example, Mulago Specialized Hospital is undergoing rehabilitation work and requires Shs. 36 bn for completion of the works, Shs. 17.8 bn for wage and Shs. 58.3 bn for recurrent non-wage;
- (d) Uganda Heart Institute; requires support in infrastructure development totalling to Shs. 331 bn for construction, expansion and staffing and UGX 10 bn for cardiac interventions and human resource training.
- 2. Human Resource; MoH has got a challenge of attracting and retaining health workers due to unattractive remuneration packages. The sector suffers from inadequacy of health personnel at all levels of health service delivery, the current national staffing level is at 73% an indication of low staffing which is accorded to low wage remuneration. There is need to allocate shs. 14.37bn for training specialists, 43.32bn and shs. 5 bn for allowances for specialists, consultants and other critical health care staff working in the hard-to-reach areas.
- 3. Medicines and Health Supplies; there is great public outcry of stock-outs of medicine in the public health facilities despite the increment of an additional allocation of UGX 40bn to the National Medical Stores, there is still a shortage of UGX 100bn to NMS to improve the availability of drugs and health supplies across the country and an additional 40bn to cater for laboratory reagents. One of the critical inadequate supplies affecting health care is blood. Blood Transfusion Services requires 32bn to screen 300,000 units of blood, the available budget is 12.8b hence raising a shortfall of 19.2bn.
- 4. Under funding for Immunization and vaccines; immunization coverage in Uganda has stagnated at about 85% for most of the vaccines on the

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