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The Republic of Uganda

19th December 2019

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS TO MATTERS OF MISCONDUCT OF UPDF OFFICERS AMONG FISHING COMMUNITIES

Rt. Hon. Speaker,

Hon. Members.

In the course of debate in this August House on Wednesday 18th December 2019, Parliament asked the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs to make a statement on allegations of misconduct by the Fisheries Protection Unit of the UPDF among the fishing communities.

Rt. Hon Speaker, It is important to note that there have been several other allegations before; of torture and illegal detention by the UPDF Fisheries Protection Unit. All these allegations were investigated case by case and responses were made to that effect before this August House.

Rt. Hon Speaker, the matter which was raised in Parliament yesterday 18th December 2019, is of serious concerns not only to the area members of Parliament, but also to us as Government and the people of Uganda.

Information available to us on this matter indicates that a young girl aged 16 years in the name of **Ekite Naume** and a daughter to **Mr Ogwang Calvin** reported a case of rape by a person who was dressed in a T-shirt and a military uniform with a gun.

The young girl claimed that a soldier came to their home and found her mopping and requested her to escort him to show him a path leading to some village but along the way he forcefully had sex with her.

This girl was then taken to Amolator Health Centre III for medical examination and the Doctors preliminary medical report indicated that there was penetration though it was also found out that the girl was no longer a virgin.

An identification Parade was immediately conducted at the UPDF detachment in the presence of the RDC, DPC, DISO, LCI Chairperson and the family members; where the girl identified one soldier in the names of **Pte Elidard Atuhaire** as the prime suspect.

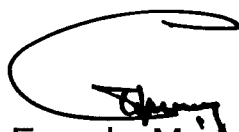
This soldier was immediately arrested by the UPDF Commander at the detach and handed over to the police. He is currently detained at Amolator CPS as further investigations are being conducted.

Rt. Hon Speaker, It should however be noted that as Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs and UPDF, we don't condone acts of indiscipline.

Therefore, during the course of conducting further investigations; if found to be true that this UPDF soldier indeed raped this girl, then he will face the court in accordance with the Law of the Country.

In that regard therefore, I wish to inform this August House that the Police is currently handling the matter.

I thank you Rt. Hon Speaker.



Hon. Col Charles Okello Engola Macodwogo (MP Oyam North)
MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE (GENERAL DUTIES)