

MOTION SEEKING LEAVE OF PARLIAMENT TO INTRODUCE A PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILL ENTITLED "THE UGANDA RED CROSS SOCIETY AND EMBLEM USE & PROTECTION BILL, 2018"

(Moved under Articles 79, 94 (1) & (4) (b) of the 1995 Constitution and Rules 120 and 121 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament)

WHEREAS Article 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda empowers Parliament to make laws on any matter for the peace, order, development and good governance;

AND WHEREAS Parliament enacted its Rules of Procedure pursuant to Article 94 (1) and (4) (b) of the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and Rule 120 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament under which a Member of Parliament has the right to move a Private Members' Bill;

AWARE THAT the Uganda Red Cross Society was established by an Act of Parliament in 1964 vide the Red Cross Act Cap 57 with a mandate generally to mitigate suffering throughout the world without any distinction based on sex, race, nationality, religion or faith, political opinions or any other similar criteria;

FURTHER AWARE THAT the Uganda Red Cross Society was specifically recognized as a voluntary aid society and an auxiliary to public authorities in exercising their obligations by virtue of the 1949 Geneva Conventions for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, the Ameliorations of the Condition of the Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea, the Treatment of Prisoners at War and the Protection of Civilians in Time of War;

COGNIZANT THAT the Uganda Red Cross Society being the leading humanitarian organization in Uganda has over the years significantly expanded its auxiliary role in the humanitarian field since 1964 to the extent that the existing Act does not reflect the current scope of action in both reach and nature;

FURTHER COGNIZANT THAT since 1964 when the Uganda Red Cross Society was established and recognized, there have been several economic, social, institutional and technological developments as well as changes in the humanitarian response field both in Uganda and internationally that impact directly and heavily on the delivery of humanitarian services by the society;

CONCERNED THAT the Red Cross Act Cap 57 neither adequately reflects the auxiliary role of the Uganda Red Cross Society which has since 1964 grown stronger and wider in reach and nature nor does it sufficiently support the objectives of the society in the provision of humanitarian services to persons that require them;

FURTHER CONCERNED THAT the Red Cross Act Cap 57 does not take into account the transformation in methods of disaster response both in Uganda and internationally and contains obsolete provisions that have been superseded by the legal, economic and social developments in Uganda;

CONVINCED THAT there's an urgent need to have a comprehensive review of the Red Cross Act Cap 57 which will not only strengthen the capacity of the Uganda Red Cross Society to effectively achieve its humanitarian mandate and objectives but will also ensure a greater outreach to the most vulnerable;

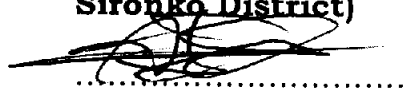
NOW THEREFORE be it resolved by Parliament that:

1. This House grants me leave to introduce a Private Members' Bill, for an Act entitled '**The Uganda Red Cross Society and Emblem Use & Protection Bill, 2018**', a draft of which is hereto attached;
2. Do order the publication of the said Bill in preparation for its first reading.

I beg to move.

Moved by:  **Hon. Byarugaba Alex Bakunda (MP, Isingiro County South, Isingiro District)**

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Seconded by: **Hon. Woboya Vincent (MP, Budadiri County East, Sironko District)**


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SECONDMENT OF A BILL ENTITLED REDCROSS SOCIETY AND EMBLEM PROTECTION BILL 2018

Rt. Hon. Speaker, I stand here to support the motion as read out by Ho. Alex Byarugaba.

- i. As it has been said, the Act establishing the Uganda RED Cross Society 1964, needs to be reviewed to capture the new trends in humanitarian response, which is a main role of the Society.
- ii. Rt. Hon. Speaker, at establishment, Uganda's population was much smaller as compared to today, as such there is need to review the Act to incorporate challenges of the expanded population.
- iii. The Disasters that the RED Cross Society are addressing today have transcended in dimension and occurrence, largely now we talk of climate change disasters than those days when the Society was largely preoccupied with human induced disasters. There are also disasters relating to technological advancement than the case was before. We are now seeing more of buildings collapsing, water and road accidents. All these require empowering the society.
- iv. A review of the Red Cross Society Act Cap 57, will go further in augmenting the Society's new tasks including sporadic response, developing new response capacities including introduction of incident command systems to manage scenes of disasters for a coordinated response.
- v. Rt. Hon Speaker and Hon. Colleagues the other point that should be emphasized is that the review of the law will clearly bring out the independence of the URCS in its response to humanitarian crisis.
- vi. Lastly at the time in the 1960s, it was not necessary for the society to engage in developmental activities or to generate extra income since the scope of work was

by then limited, the reality now is that the society should be enabled to engage in investment programmes to generate requisite resources for response as well as supplement on donor funding.

- vii. As I conclude Rt. Speaker, the RED Cross Emblem should safe guarded and protected, because we see incidents when its use is at times abused. The use should be regulated through the law. Anyone these days can use the Cross Symbol and claim what he /she is not.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, I thank you and beg to submit.



Woboya Vicent- **MP**,
BUDADIRI EAST