THE UGANDA SITUATION

As of March 25, 2020, Uganda has confirmed five (05) more cases of COVID-19 bringing a cumulative total of fourteen (14) positive victims. Of the 05 new cases, the two are among the six Chinese that had escaped from the official quarantine areas and were arrested in Zombo district on their way to Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The other three include a 65 year old male from Adjumani district with no known foreign travel history but plies his trade at the Elegu border post with the Republic of South Sudan. The other is a 57 year old Ugandan from Najanakumbi who recently travelled from Germany and has been under self-quarantine. An eight (08) month old baby in Iganga district whose father travelled to Kisumu-Kenya for a week is also amongst the latest victims. It should be noted however, Uganda has recorded no death as a result of COVID-19, and that all the victims remain in stable condition and are responding well to treatment.

On a whole, over 2,600 persons from potential high risk countries have been identified by the Ministry of Health (MoH) teams. Of these, 1,230 (46%) are under routine follow up, 764 (29%) are under institutional quarantine while 466 (18%) are under self-quarantine. 204 (7%) persons have already been tested for Corona Virus. To date, a total of 1,431 persons have completed their mandatory 14 days of quarantine and have returned to their homes.

MoH ENHANCES COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

Effective March 25, the MoH has increased the number of its call Center Agents from 20 to 100 and will be working 24-7 to respond to all the emerging cases. The Ministry has also decentralised the response mechanisms by enlisting the DHOs and other surveillance focal persons at district level. Toll free access to the ministry remains open on these Call Center Numbers: 0800-100-066, 0800-203-033 & 0800-303-033

THE WAR WITHIN: UBOS Responds

In addition to the heightened measures aimed at controlling the ravaging global virus, UBOS has remained at the forefront of ensuring the safety of the UBOS family. “The safety of our staff, families and stakeholders still remains high on our agenda during this period of the corona virus outbreak...” said Dr. Chris N. Mukiza in a memo to staff. The institution has put in place a mobile taskforce to keep track of the emerging cases and trends of the spread of the virus (see underneath the rapid response team contacts).

Going forward, all UBOS critical activities including fielding work are suspended until further notice. All staff below Principal Officer Level are to work from home until April 20, 2020 or as guided from time to time. The regional offices are required to maintain two staff at the station and ensure they observe the social distancing guidelines. The Heads of Directorates/ Divisions
will ensure continuity of business through online mechanisms. The Executive Director reiterated these initiatives have been mooted to ensure the safety of staff in addition and / or in complement of the national guidelines.

BE ON ALERT: Keep Safe…. Let’s all kick out the virus
• As much as possible, avoid usage of public transport means. Public transport poses a big threat of spreading the virus.
• Wash hands frequently with soap and water.
• Avoid touching your nose, mouth and eyes.
• Cover your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze.
• Avoid crowded places / Social distancing.
• Stay at home if you feel unwell- even with a slight fever and cough.
• Seek medical care if you develop fever, cough and breathing difficulties.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:
An Eye across the EAC

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<th>S/N</th>
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ON THE GLOBE...
According to the latest World Health Organisation (WHO) Situation Report #64 (as of 10:00 CET March 24, 2020), there are 372,757 COVID_19 victims and a record of 16,231 (4.4%) deaths so far. Of this, the European region accounts for 195,511 (52%) victims and 10,189 (63%) deaths followed by the Western Pacific region with 96,580 (26%) victims and 3,502 (22%) deaths. The region of the America’s has so far recorded 49,444 (13%) victims and 565 (3%) deaths. The African region has so far recorded the least i.e 1,305 (0.4%) victims and 26 (0.2%) deaths.

REFERENCES:
• Ministry of Health Daily Reports on COVID_19
• The National Presidential Directives on COVID_19
• UBOS Executive Director’s Guidelines on COVID_19
• World Health Organisation Situational Reports on COVID_19

UBOS COVID_19 TASKFORCE RESPONSE TEAMS
• Ms. Sarah Nakasinde-Tel: +256-772693022 (Kampala area)
• Mr. Nsiko Israel- Tel: +256-772617768, +256-711706093 (Entebbe area)

OUR LINK TO THE NATIONAL TASKFORCE:
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This leaflet is a publication of the UBOS TASKFORCE ON COVID_19