



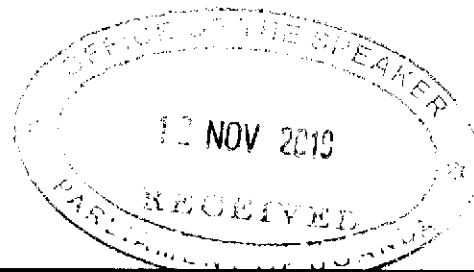
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THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

**STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON THE DEPLORABLE STATE OF  
ADOLESCENT REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY.**

**Dr. Aceng Jane Ruth  
Minister for Health  
November 12<sup>th</sup> 2019**



**Rt. Hon. Speaker of Parliament**

**Hon. Members of Parliament**

On 04<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 Hon. Sentongo Robinah Nakasirye,MP Kyotera District raised concern over the Deplorable state of adolescent reproductive health service delivery.

Rt. Hon. Speaker and Hon. Members,

The Ministry of Health acknowledges the importance of promoting adolescent reproductive health issues as a strategic focus for improving the general state of sexual reproductive health in the country and continues to provide accurate sexual reproductive health information and adolescent friendly Reproductive Health services as priority interventions under the Health Sector Development Plan (HSDP) 2014/15-2019/20.

It is against this background that my Ministry adopted the adolescent friendly service policy and strategy which recommends strengthening service delivery, providing a conducive environment, young people engagement, collaborative and multi-sectoral service delivery, involvement of key stakeholders such as teachers, Legislators, Community, cultural and religious leaders and Parents in the provision of accurate reproductive health information to adolescents. The policy applies to both static and services delivered through outreaches.

Rt. Hon. Speaker and Hon. Members,

In addition, my Ministry has gone ahead and developed tools that health workers, teachers, Village Health Teams (VHTs), legislators, and community leaders can use to advocate and deliver information to adolescents and caretakers. A curriculum was also developed to train health workers on the provision of adolescent friendly Reproductive health services in order to improve the quality of services and improve use by adolescents to prevent and manage reproductive health related issues.

Kyotera district is one of the districts that has benefited from a project known as DREAMS (Determined, Resilient, Empowered AIDs Free, Mentored and Safe) implemented by the district and Implementing Partners funded by PEPFAR under the oversight supervision of Ministry of Health. DREAMS is an intervention to keep adolescent girls free from HIV, prevent unplanned pregnancies among adolescents, sex workers and married young people through a combination of biomedical, behavioral interventions, economic strengthening of adolescents and care givers.

It is important to note that whereas Ministry of Health has done its part to strengthen and promote the Youth Friendly Services (YFS) policy, other key stakeholders are not moving at the same pace. Adolescent health issues cannot be handled by the health sector alone. It requires a multi-sectoral approach.

Rt. Hon. Speaker and Hon. Members

We still have challenges of Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV), school drop outs, social cultural and religious values, poverty and delays in justice which hamper Reproductive Health service use. There are also challenges of inadequate numbers of Health workers which negatively impacts quality service delivery to large numbers of adolescents that need counseling and proper mentoring which requires adequate time.

The Ministry of Health has concluded the development of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights Policy which is currently awaiting a certificate of financial implications before it can be considered by cabinet.

Rt. Hon. Speaker and Hon. Members,

In conclusion, Ministry of Health continues to call upon all other stakeholders including MPs to support Government efforts to eliminate risky practices at family and community level, promote responsible and positive behaviors and values that favor good health of the young people.

Thank you for listening to me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aceng Jane Ruth', written in a cursive style.

**Dr. Aceng Jane Ruth**

**Minister for Health**

**November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY**