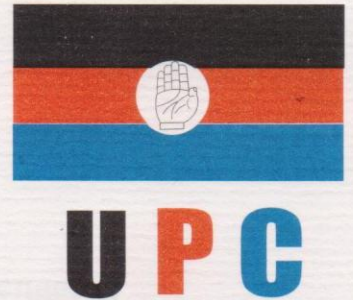


Uganda Peoples Congress

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PRESS STATEMENT:

UPC URGES GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS THE CURRENT HEALTH CRISIS

1. Uganda Peoples' Congress notes with Concern the manner in which Ministry of Health has handled the issue of the radiotherapy equipment at the Uganda Cancer Institute, a large number of patient's lives are at risk since they cannot access treatment. Not only that, according to the Ministry of Health, presently, 25% of the Ugandan teenagers become pregnant by the age of 19. About 49% are married before their 18th birthday and they start getting babies until their mid 40s.

Adolescents face a host of other sexual and reproductive health challenges. Complicated child births and abortions often requiring Emergency Obstetric Care are widespread. Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) including HIV infection are also common. Large families with poorly spaced children define a typical Ugandan rural community.

Adolescents constitute the highest demographic segment in Uganda yet sexual and reproductive information and health services to meet their needs are still limited. It our considered view that;

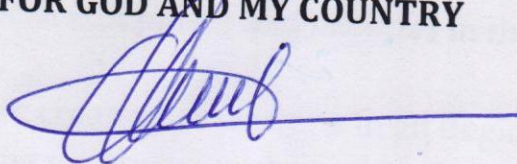
- (i) Government comprehensively looks into the issue of budgetary allocation to the health sector. Therefore a greater emphasis would be placed on the training of health workers, planning for the procurement of equipment and facilities in time to avert disaster.
- (ii) That Government creates cancer units in all Regional Referral Hospitals with the necessary equipment and supportive research initiatives.
- (iii) All equipment in hospitals should be planned for financially as their useful lives are well known in advance, along with their regular maintenance. These are basic accounting procedures that the management should be aware of and implementing.

Mission: A social democratic party that seeks to safe guard national independence and promote national unity, equality, equity and human rights for all.

Vision: An independent, united, democratic, just, peaceful and prosperous nation, where all its citizens have equal opportunities and equitable access to national resources.

- (iv) We propose that Government addresses the challenges of adolescent reproductive Health.
2. Uganda Peoples Congress joins all Ugandans of goodwill in celebrating the anniversary of the fall of Idi Amin on April 11th, 1979. UPC played the central role in liberating Uganda, not from Amin the person, but the yoke of neo-colonial domination that he represented. UPC will continue to struggle against the reverses now being endured ever since that momentous event. Uganda has throughout its history been a beacon of enlightenment and a progressive force, playing its part in an ongoing struggle for the dignity and sovereignty of developing nations. This has been UPC's political journey and one that it will continue to pursue.
3. UPC wishes to remind Ofwono Opondo of the idiom "he who pays the piper calls the tune". It is no good shouting at the American ambassador and the donor countries accusing them of "regime change" while the very medical equipment that has been procured using funds directly or indirectly sourced from them falls into disrepair or out of commission. The same goes for infrastructural projects going on all over the country. He must remember that when the aid and grants the country benefits from for these tangibles amongst others are the very same ones that heralded by the Government as achievements. UPC has always questioned the agreements and structuring for such funding as they were made without critical thought and were expedient by design. The net result has seen conditions attached to such funding/aid where the focus on social spending has been marginalized and priority being given to "security" and other non-productive sectors.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY



**MICHAEL ORACHOSINDE
PARTY SPOKESPERSON.**