



The Republic of Uganda

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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## PRESS RELEASE

### Ministry of Health clarification on Staff recruitment

*False and inaccurate reporting by the Sunday Monitor regarding Staff recruitment at the Ministry of Health*

**KAMPALA, 11/08/2019** – Our attention has been drawn to the lead story in the **Sunday Monitor** of **11<sup>th</sup> August, 2019** titled: *“Atwine kicks up storm in Health”*

The story alleges that prior to getting the new structure, the top ministry officials handpicked a Director Curative/Clinical Services, four commissioners; the Commissioner for Ambulance, the Commissioner for Quality Assurance and one for Clinical services.

On the contrary, the Ministry of Health would like to clarify as follows;

The Permanent Secretary, Dr Diana Atwine never handpicked any staff to fill any of the above key positions as maliciously alleged by the Sunday Monitor, which is largely attributed to anonymous sources.

All staff currently occupying key positions at the Ministry of Health were recruited by the Health Service Commission, through well laid down processes and procedures as enshrined in the Public Service recruitment rules. The vacant positions were advertised, applicants shortlisted and successful candidates who sat interviews were forwarded by the Health Service Commission for appointment.

For example, Dr. Charles Olaro, a Senior Consultant Surgeon, was appointed upon emerging successful for the position of Director Curative/Clinical Services. Similarly, Dr. Joseph Okware, a former District Health Officer for Luwero District attended and successfully passed interviews by the Health Service Commission before being appointed the Commissioner Quality Assurance and Inspection Department (QAID).

The current Commissioner in charge of Clinical Services, Dr Jackson Amonde, and formerly assistant Commissioner Clinical Services also successfully sat and passed interviews for the position. He replaced Dr Jacinto Amandua who had officially retired from Service.

Dr John Baptist Waniaye Nambohe, formerly in Mbale district was appointed Commissioner Emergency Medical Services in the Ministry of Health upon successfully completing a recruitment process by the Commission.

It is suffice to note that the recruitment process was already in its final stages when Dr Diana Atwine was appointed as the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health towards the end of the year 2016.

The Ministry of Health would like to reiterate that the accounting officer, Dr Diana Atwine, did not “handpick the 11 officials for appointment by the Health Service Commission” as alleged by the author. The so-called “handpicked 11 officials” were merely officers who have been serving at the Ministry of Health and have worked exceptionally well.

Dr Atwine felt that if they are assessed and found suitable, they would be given an opportunity to serve in the positions where they had been in acting capacity. The matter was discussed and endorsed by entire senior Top Management thus not a decision by the Permanent secretary alone.

Kindly note that the Permanent Secretary does **NOT** work alone but with the entire management.

Therefore, this renders the allegations made by the Sunday Monitor as false and malicious and should be treated by the general public as mere fabrications by the author.

In an addition, the Ministry of Health has contract staff who are regularly recruited upon clearance by Ministry of Public Service to bridge gaps in areas that have limited capacity within the structure. Some other contract staff are supported by development partners as part of the strategy to strengthen the Health care system.

In the same vein, the Health Service Commission is still undertaking a validation exercise for all Ministry of Health staff as part of the process to implement a new staff structure. The Ministry of Health follows all the requisite Human resource guidelines in the recruitment process of cadres at all levels as stipulated within the approved structure.

Based on the above facts, the Ministry of Health appeals to the general public to disregard the distortions contained in the Sunday Monitor story.

The Ministry of Health further appeals to the media to always verify before reporting misleading stories.

In conclusion, the Ministry of Health is an equal opportunities employer that does not discriminate against tribe, gender or colour.

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