

Sunday, 23rd July, 2023

STATEMENT ON THE ISSUES RAISED BY THE LEADER OF OPPOSITION IN PARLIAMENT

Our attention has been drawn to allegations in a communication made by the Leader of Opposition in Parliament (LOP), Hon. Mathias Mpuuga. We believe the office of the LOP has been misinformed about the facts relating to the delivery of essential medicines.

NMS wishes to clarify as follows:

1. NMS routinely delivers medicines monthly to National Referral Hospitals and once every two months to Regional Referrals, General hospitals and Health center IVs, IIIs and IIs.

Delays in the delivery of medicines to all health facilities that occasioned the combining of cycles last Financial Year (FY) resulted from the late receipt of funds for the delivery of medicines from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MOFPED). This issue was presented on the floor of Parliament in a detailed statement by the Hon. Minister of Health, Dr Jane Ruth Aceng, on Wednesday, 1st February 2023, confirmed as accurate, and a solution agreed upon in a meeting chaired by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister in the same month.

2. NMS supplies medicines based on each health facility's approved procurement plan. NMS has not supplied any district or local government health facility with cough mixtures/syrups for over five years since they are not part of any health facility's procurement plan. It is, therefore, not true that NMS substituted Antimalarials with cough mixtures as alleged. NMS encourages any health facility that received cough mixtures as an alternative for antimalarials to adduce evidence.

The Government of Uganda's Malaria Reduction Strategy Plan is focused on prevention rather than treatment. That is why the Government of Uganda has mobilised resources and partners to procure, store and distribute the Long Lasting Insecticide-treated Mosquito Nets (LLINs). Alongside the routine deliveries, NMS is currently distributing 28.5 million Mosquito nets up to the parish level in a phased manner.





Plot 4-12, Nsamizi Road, Plot 16, Entebbe.
Toll-Free Lines: 0800122221/0800300333

3. Delivery of all medicines and medical supplies to all health facilities is based on a predetermined delivery schedule shared with all health facilities. The delivery schedule is not dependent on any individual's program.

4. NMS has never, and has no intention of, requesting supplementary funds from Parliament to destroy expired drugs. Expired drugs that we have had at our stores do not include Antimalarials but have mainly been ARVs that expired due to a change of treatment guidelines by the World Health Organisation and, subsequently, the Ministry Of Health when more effective ARVs were made available on the market.

NMS is dedicated to ensuring the availability of medicines and medical supplies in line with each health facility's budget.

NMS, Passionate About Your Life!

For more details, please contact:

Sheilla Nduhukire

Principal Public Relations Officer,

National Medical Stores

Email: sheila.nduhukire@nms.go.ug

Twitter: @nmsuganda, @snduhukire