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THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

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Press Statement on 27th December 2020

COVID-19, New Year & Elections

- **New year celebrations - stay at home, pray with family**
- **Avoid candidates planning to defy new campaign measures.**
- **Voting is 2 weeks away, Time to reflect about your candidate.**

Fellow countrymen and women, I am delighted to be speaking to you today.

We have a few days left to the end of year.

2020, will certainly go down as the year when everything changed.

I want to thank everyone who has done their part in the fight against COVID-19.

When it all started in March, the country responded well by rallying behind our President, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for guidance.

Guided by our Scientists and the teams from Ministry of Health, the country managed to avert a bad situation.

Lives were saved, livelihoods that were affected by the lockdown have been gradually restored.

I therefore want to acknowledge the resilience and unbreakable spirit that Ugandans have exhibited in 2020.

In a special way, we thank our health workers, volunteers and all other frontline workers.

Majority of these health workers are quarantined in hospitals where they work every day to save lives of critically ill patients.

Within the same measure, I call upon all fellow Ugandans to carry forward the lessons of 2020 into 2021.

Continue washing hands with soap all the time and everywhere.

Avoid crowding and mixing around in public places without any social distancing.

Ensure that you have your mask on all the time when doing out in the public.

Medical experts have told us that the face mask reduces upto 99% chances of catching COVID-19.

Let us therefore use our facemasks properly and consistently.

Now despite all the hard work that has been going on, we still find ourselves in a challenging situation.

The number of new infections being registered every day is overwhelming.

The number of critically ill patients that require oxygen on a daily basis is beyond what we can sustain.

And because of this, the number of people dying has also gone up.

I therefore call upon everyone to take the following guidance seriously.

The regular routine of coming out in trading centers to celebrate the new year at midnight should be canceled.

Please stay in your homes and welcome the new year with your family.

Let us use the New Year's Eve to thank the Almighty God for having kept us alive and pray for a better 2021.

Police will not give any permission for Fireworks this time.

Fireworks are usually accompanied by people staying up late and gathering around a particular place.

This gathering and funfair increases the risk of spreading COVID-19.

All other public end of year festivities such as concerts, overnight prayers, discotheques are not allowed.

All other existing SOPs such as curfew hours, traffic rules, remain in place and will be enforced by police.

Now as we get closer to the national elections, I call upon everyone to start reflecting about their choice of candidate.

This is the time to choose a leader who will be able to sustain and continue with the progress that the country has registered over the years.

Now we all know that the Electoral Commission has suspended campaign activities in some districts.

Kampala, Jinja, Kabarole, Masaka, Kazo, Kabale, Greater Mukono, Wakiso, Tororo, Luwero, Mbarara, Kalungu and Kasese.

Districts such as Kampala, Wakiso, Masaka have consistently been super spreaders with other registering a high number of daily new infections.

Given the nature of campaigns with some candidates failing to adhere to the SOPs, cancelling campaign activities is going to save lives.

It is however unfortunate to hear some candidates already coming and declaring defiance against the new measures.

I call upon members of the public to ignore such candidates who intend to defy the new campaign measures.

The risk of catching COVID-19 in these areas is simply so high.

Let us support the Electoral Commission in its efforts to deliver a free and fair election.

I want to wish everyone a happy new year 2021.

Let everyone make a personal decision to ensure that they stay safe from COVID-19.

We can win against COVID-19 if we all respect the guidance given by our scientists and His Excellency the President, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.

For God and My Country



Hon Judith Nabakooba (MP)

Min for ICT and National Guidance

