



**MINISTRY OF ICT & NATIONAL GUIDANCE AND KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG (KAS) TO SUPPORT MINISTRY OF HEALTH EFFORTS IN FIGHTING COVID-19**

**Kampala, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

The Ministry of Health, Ministry of ICT and National Guidance and the Konrad-Adenauer are collaborating in effort to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Working with the National Broadcaster, Uganda Broadcasting Corporation, the partners will host webinars facilitated by medical professionals to answer and demystify the myths around COVID-19.

Hosted by the Government Citizen Interaction Centre, under the Ministry of ICT & NG, webinars will be held on the following key focus areas;

1. The Science behind Covid19,
2. The Threat of Misinformation during a Pandemic
3. Coping with Anxiety and Mental health during a Crisis such as COVID-19.

All webinars will be broadcast live on UBC, all partner Social Media channels and will also feature direct citizen engagement through the zoom online application.

Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of ICT & National Guidance, Vincent W Bagiire, said that “the main aim of the partnership is to allow the citizens to interact with experts and get a better context of the pandemic and Government’s efforts to protect them against COVID-19.” He added that, “Our role as a Ministry is to facilitate access to science-based information from Government to the citizens, and enable citizens to engage experts.” Bagiire added.

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Speaking about the partnership, Mr. Mathias Kamp, KAS' Country representative for Uganda & South Sudan said, "the collaboration with the Ministry of ICT & National Guidance reflects KAS' goal to contribute to informed dialogue to curb the Covid-19 pandemic. This comes at a time when joining hands with the governmental efforts is paramount".

On her part, Dr Diana Atwine, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Health hailed the partnership as a timely intervention that will allow ordinary citizens to understand key issues around the management of pandemic. "The success in controlling COVID-19, lies in continuous community engagement and to appreciate that the disease is not an ordinary one. It is a global war and we must fight it together if we are to succeed", she said.

The partnership will also entail activities under the Faces of Care campaign, profiling and showcasing the human resource of the frontline workers such as Doctors, Nurses, Ambulance drivers, hospital cleaners and customs official at different points of entry who have been central in ensuring the pandemic is kept at bay.

These activities will run through May and June. Attached to this media release is a schedule of the webinar events and speakers who will mainly feature in the conversations.

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