



# The Pharmaceutical Society Of Uganda

0298/PSU/2024

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Date:

9<sup>th</sup> October 2024

## PSU message on the occasion of Celebrating 62 Years of Uganda's Independence

As we mark this significant milestone, we reflect on our nation's journey and the progress made. Today, we honor the struggles and sacrifices of our forefathers who fought for our freedom.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Uganda (PSU) as national professional body for pharmacists in Uganda joins the nation in commemorating this special day. As a professional body of experts in drugs, We recognize the critical role that access to quality healthcare plays in empowering communities and promoting national development.

### This is our Call to Action:

**To the Government:** We urge you to increase funding for healthcare and pharmaceutical services, ensuring that all Ugandans have access to essential medicines. It is time to enact a law on national health insurance for the citizens of Uganda, adequately providing for pharmaceutical services delivery in the country. We also urge the government to employ pharmacists in all its health facilities across the country. Pharmacists are equally competent to head these facilities. We request the President to appoint pharmacists as ministers as well, recognizing our absence at top decision-making organs of government like cabinet.

**To Stakeholders:** Let's work together to promote local pharmaceutical manufacturing, enhance quality control and regulation, and combat antimicrobial resistance. Many people are dying due to antimicrobial resistance and there are increased treatment costs due to the same. As PSU, we support the one health approach that considers use of antimicrobials in both animals and humans given that some diseases affect both and the drug molecules used are the same only differing in the way they are presented and dosed. Let us promote appropriate use of all medicines.

**To Parliament:** We call upon you to enact laws that support the development of the pharmaceutical sector, protecting the health and well-being of Ugandans. Reject all bills that promote irrational use of medicines, including those putting drugs in the hands of unqualified personnel.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

**To Citizens:** Drugs can be medicines or poisons depending on the dose. We urge you to demand quality medicines from licensed pharmacies and use antimicrobials responsibly. Antimicrobials are medicines that kill or inhibit growth of microorganisms some of which cause disease. Avoid self-medication, ensure you complete the prescribed dose and consult the pharmacist on all medicines before using them. Do not pile up unused and expired medicines at home; return them to the nearest pharmacy and not pour in toilets, garden nor mix with other waste at home as these will affect the environment and promote antimicrobial resistance as well when soil microorganisms are exposed. Avoid creating mini-pharmacies at home. Check your medicine cabinet, keep medicines out of reach of children and have a personal pharmacist to guide you on appropriate medicines use. Some diseases can be induced by medicines. Medicines are chemicals that can interact with each other and some interact with food thus reducing their effectiveness.

**To Pharmacy professionals:** Continue providing exceptional care and services, upholding the integrity of the profession. Managing patients is teamwork so cooperate with other health professionals in service delivery; be innovative and courteous in your service delivery. Support one another and make timely referrals.

Dear Ugandans and friends of Uganda, Let us unite to build a healthier, more prosperous Uganda. Happy Independence Day!  
Share this message with others.

Per medicatum servium,  
(With medicines, we serve)



Dr. Lutoti Stephen  
Secretary, Pharmaceutical Society of Uganda

