



8th November, 2021

PS/ST GGOOBI CALLS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES

The Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury, Ramathan Ggoobi accompanied with his technical team has visited National Medical stores (NMS) new warehouse under construction in Kajjansi and the NMS warehouse in Entebbe.

This visit is part of PS/ST's agenda to enhance accountability with results and also improve service delivery to the people of Uganda. He was received and taken on a guided tour of the warehouses by the NMS Board Chairman Dr. Jotham Musinguzi and the NMS General Manager, Moses Kamabare.

At Kajjansi the PS/ST applauded the Board and Management of National Medical Stores (NMS) for signing a good contract that has delivered the new 30,000 pallet warehouse in a timely manner. The 70 billion shillings new warehouse seated on 10 acres of land is at 95% complete and is expected to be handed over to NMS by December 2021.

At the Entebbe warehouse, PS/ST was irked by reports than NMS does not know how the medical supplies delivered in public health facilities are accounted for. According to the NMS General Manager, Mr. Kamabare, their mandate ends with buying, storing and delivering the medical supplies to the public health facilities. NMS delivers door to door at least once every two months to 3247 government and other accredited health facilities. Total commodities distributed in FY 2020/21 were worth UGX 1.369 trillion.

PS/ST Ggoobi said it is not right for NMS to deliver a new consignment without asking for accountability of the previous supplies.

“Why would NMS which is responsible for these supplies have no right to ask how the previous consignment was used before delivering the next,” PS/ST asked.

Mission

“To formulate sound economic policies, maximize revenue mobilization, ensure efficient allocation and accountability for public resources so as to achieve the most rapid and sustainable economic growth and development”

According to the NMS General Manager, NMS for example delivers about 800,000 mama kits against a requirement of about 600,000 to 650,000 kits for mothers who deliver in public health facilities annually, unfortunately, these free mama kits are never available for most mothers who go to deliver resulting into public outcry that government is not delivering enough mama kits in health facilities. “We frequently get reports that essential medicines and other medical supplies that are meant to be given free of charge are stolen from public health facilities,” said Kamabare.

PS/ST said he was going to call a meeting of all stakeholders to address the issue of accountability for medical supplies in public health facilities.

“We need to cure the issue of expiry of drugs as well as tracking of medicines and other medical supplies to the final recipient to eliminate the stealing of drugs,” said Ggoobi.

There reports that these medical supplies are sold to the private health facilities and the neighbouring countries, a report which must be inquired into and addressed to improve delivery of health services in the country.

Mr. Ggoobi also rallied all Ugandans to embrace COVID-19 vaccination so that the economy can be fully reopened.

“That reopening is going to depend on the numbers of Ugandans that we vaccinate, because vaccination has been found to be the game changer. Where we are here, we have enough doses to vaccinate Ugandans who are in need of these vaccines,” Ggoobi said.

He said the challenge now is how Ugandans respond to get these vaccines, adding that the media and everybody else should encourage people of Uganda to go to the nearest point where they can be vaccinated.

“All of us you see here are vaccinated, and we haven’t died, we haven’t lost our homes, we are still married, we have children and we are going to produce more children,” PS/ST said adding that Ugandans should stop listening to rumours from people are not knowledgeable and get vaccinated.

He said Ugandans are tired of curfew and not having a night life which he said was a precursor for economic dynamism because money moves at night more than during the day.

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“As PS/ST who wants the economy to work, I would want to see the night economy reopened, but it will only be reopened when we vaccinate,” said Ggoobi.

PS/ST Ggoobi was accompanied by the Deputy Secretary to the Treasury, Patrick Ocailap, Acting Director Budget, Laban Mbulamuko, Acting Director Economic Affairs, Moses Kaggwa and Acting Director Treasury Services and Assets Management, Jennifer Muhuruzi.

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