

Office of the Director General - Public Relations Unit  
Director General's Office: 256-4147712200 Fax: 256-41-4231584  
[info@health.go.ug](mailto:info@health.go.ug)/[emmanuel.ainebyoona@health.go.ug](mailto:emmanuel.ainebyoona@health.go.ug)

## PRESS RELEASE

### UPDATE ON THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK IN UGANDA

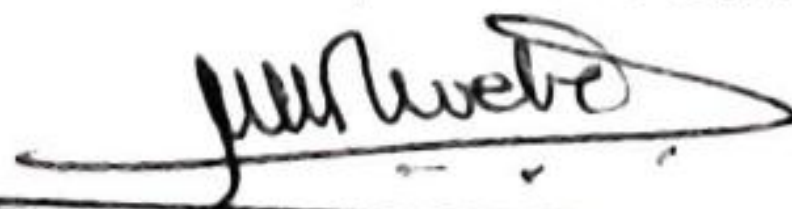
**21<sup>st</sup> April, 2020:** The Ministry of Health confirms **one COVID -19 positive case** from 651 samples tested from truck drivers at border points of entry. All 368 samples taken from the community and quarantine centers **tested negative** for COVID-19. A total of 1,019 samples were tested today at the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI). Please note that the **REVISED TOTAL** number of confirmed COVID-19 cases is now **61**. The WHO International Health Regulations (IHR) require that every case is counted and treated in a country where it was tested and confirmed. Against this background Uganda is required to add the five (5) positive foreign truck drivers to our statistics (i.e. the 1 Tanzanian and 4 Kenyans), This includes the 2 cases who had earlier gone back to their respective home countries (Kenya and Tanzania).

Today's confirmed case is a 32 year old Kenyan truck driver who arrived at Malaba border post from Kenya. He did not have any signs and symptoms consistent with COVID-19. He was tested as part of the standard procedure for all cargo transporters entering Uganda. Arrangements to evacuate him to Entebbe Hospital for treatment are underway.

#### Clarification on repatriated bodies

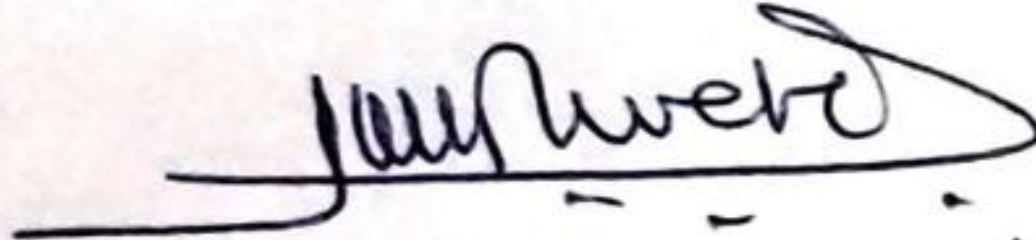
In the same vein, the Ministry of Health acknowledges social media posts alleging that bodies of 2 deceased Ugandans who arrived from Dubai, UAE and Doha, Qatar were intercepted at Entebbe International Airport. We would like to clarify as follows:

1. The cause of death of the individual from Dubai, UAE was an accident. The body arrived at Entebbe International Airport on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 and he was buried safely.



2. The cause of death of the individual from Doha, Qatar was reported as Acute Respiratory Syndrome. The body arrived at Entebbe International Airport on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020 and was received by A-Plus and two relatives of the deceased. On learning of the incident, Ministry of Health and Uganda Red Cross teams took over the burial ceremonies from A-PLUS and accorded the deceased a safe and dignified burial in Kayunga district. The ceremony was directly supervised by an MOH Commissioner. However, six A-Plus staff and 2 relatives who received the body before the intervention of MOH were put under a 14-day Institutional quarantine in Kayunga.

Finally, the Ministry continues to reiterate that Uganda has not registered any COVID-19 death.

  
Dr. Henry G. Mwebesa 22/04/2020

**DIRECTOR GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES**

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*For further Information, contact Mr. Emmanuel Ainebyoona – Senior Public Relations Officer on +256 779220588 or [Emmanuel.ainebyoona@health.go.ug](mailto:Emmanuel.ainebyoona@health.go.ug)*



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