

**SPEECH BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/REGISTAR, NDA AT THE
JOINT NDA-PSU MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS**

The Chairman, NDA,

The President, Pharmaceutical Society of Uganda,

My colleagues, the Pharmacists,

Managing Directors of Pharmaceutical Enterprises,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Let me take this opportunity to welcome you to this meeting jointly organized by NDA and PSU. The purpose of this meeting is the following:

- Up date our stakeholders on the policy developments at NDA.
- To listen to our stakeholders on how best they would like to be served.
- Together, to develop strategies for improving our service to the patient.

During the last one year NDA has continued to register a number of achievements;

- In order to improve our service to you our clients, NDA has recruited more technical and support staff. Most of them have just reported and are undergoing orientation.
- We continue to evaluate registration dossiers so that the drugs used in Uganda are safe and efficacious. We have almost cleared the backlog that had accumulated over time.
- We have continued to inspect and license drug outlets so as to prepare them to offer a good service to the patients.
- We have expanded our GMP inspection of manufacturing sites where drugs used in Uganda are made. This will ensure that the drugs on our market are of better quality.
- We continue to inspect drugs at the port of entry to ensure that they comply with the specifications against which they were registered.
- We have continued to analyze samples of drugs especially antimalarials, antituberculus drugs and Antiretroviral drugs to ensure they are of good quality.
- We have continued to vet all drug promotional activities to ensure that both clinicians and patients use drugs based on accurate and unbiased information.

- We have opened up a Regional Office in Jinja to cover the districts of Mukono, Jinja, Kamuli, Iganga, Kayunga, Mayuge and Bugiri. The office for the Central Region will soon open. It will also house the inspector in charge of Nakawa inland port and the surrounding Internal Container Depots
- In order to keep up to date with international developments in drug regulation, our staff have attended various workshop and seminars like the International Conference on Harmonization (ICH), the International Conference for Drug Regulatory Agencies (ICDRA), and various seminars organized by WHO.
- In order to fulfill our mandate of ensuring that essential drugs are available to the entire population of Uganda, and in order to guide you our partners in this endeavor, we developed guidelines on equitable distribution of drug outlets.

This period has not been without constraints and problems;

- We continue to face a manpower shortage in a number of technical departments. This has caused some delay in evaluation of dossiers for registration, processing applications for verification certificates and analyzing samples from the ports of entry.
- We continue to face a problem of inadequate financial resources. This has limited the pace at which we would have liked to improve our services to you.
- A number of illegal outlets have sprung up in the suburbs due to inadequate surveillance and uncoordinated moves by some of the health professional councils. We the position of the DADIs in the districts still remains uncertain
- We still do not have a facility to test condoms and gloves.

Our future plans include the following;

- Revision of the National Drug Policy and Authority Act (Cap. 206) in order to support effective regulation.
- Reviewing the fees chargeable for the services offered with a view of ensuring cost recovery.
- Expanding our regulation to herbal medicines, medicated cosmetics, public health chemicals, laboratory chemicals and reagents.
- Establishing a condom and glove resting laboratory and microbiology laboratory.
- Regulating all drug related clinical trials.

The rest of the policy issues will be highlighted in a presentation to be made later. The main purpose of today's meeting is for us to get a feedback from our joint stakeholders.

I hope that today we shall have open, frank but cordial deliberations.

Let me invite the Chairman, NDA to say a few words and thereafter open our meeting officially.

Mr. Apollo Muhairwe,
Executive Secretary/Registrar, NDA