



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT URGING GOVERNMENT TO INSTITUTE MEASURES TO ADDRESS MATERNAL MORTALITY AND OTHER MATTERS INCIDENTAL THERETO

WHEREAS Article 33(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda obliges the State to mandatorily protect taking into account their unique status and natural maternal functions in society;

AND WHEREAS Objective XV of the National Objective and Directive Principles of State Policy further urges the State to recognize the significant role that women play in society;

FURTHER WHEREAS Objective XX stipulates that the state shall take all practical measures to ensure the provision of basic medical services to the population;

AWARE that the current status in Uganda is that 435 women die out every 100,000 live birth;

FURTHER AWARE that 16 women die each day in Uganda while giving birth largely due to preventable causes such as hemorrhage, sepsis, unsafe abortions, obstructed labor, hypertensive disorders and related causes;

COGNISANT that Uganda has committed herself to the full realization of the Millennium Development Goals particularly the goal to reduce maternal deaths to 125 deaths for every 100,000 live births by the year 2015;

ALSO ACKNOWLEDGING that the national policy on midwifery training is so biased that only 6% of the total number of enrolled student pursue midwifery; and the current ratio of qualified tutors to midwifery students is only 1:60 as opposed to the internationally recommended ratio of 1:10;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that the coverage by skilled birth attendants in Uganda attends to about three or more times the number of recommended patients according to the Report of the State of the World's Midwifery Statistics, 2011;

RECALLING that various Stakeholders have in the past recommended that Government recruits an additional 5000 nurses, midwives and clinical officers and also enhances their remuneration in order to create a well motivated and an equitably deployed professional health workforce;

REALISING that family planning not only gives a woman a choice to create gaps between births, delays first pregnancies or to avoid having pregnancy too late, but also prevents maternal mortality and morbidity;

FURTHER REALISING that giving birth close to one another weakens a woman and reduces her chances of surviving birth related complications;

CONSIDERING that family planning services are not readily accessible to most women and that up to now, family planning communication strategies and messages are not harmonized among different stakeholders who are the Ministry of Health, Civil Society Organizations, Cultural and Religious Leaders which results into passing conflicting information on the subject;

RECOGNISING that the loss of a mother shatters a family and threatens the well being of the surviving children and the husband; and

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved by Parliament as follows:-

1. That Parliament tasks Government through the Ministry of Health to strictly enforce maternal death audits and take action on established causes.
2. That Government develops a policy of compensation of the families of all women who die as a result of maternal related causes while in Government facilities. Further, Parliament urges Government to implement its commitment of allocating 15% of the total national budget, to the health sector as per the Abuja declaration.
3. That Government expedites to reform the midwifery training curriculum by enhancing the duration of training in maternal and child health modules and updates Parliament every six months' on the progress.
4. That Government re-centralizes the recruitment of Medical personnel and addresses the critical shortage of medical professionals particularly, through recruitment at a minimum of 2000 well trained, motivated and equitably deployed midwives, in order to reverse the current rate of deaths resulting from preventable maternal related causes. Further, Government reports to Parliament on the status of implementation of this resolution, within two months from this date, and presents to parliament its commitment and plans for recruitment of at least 5,000 midwives by 2015.

5. That Government empowers the Community and enhance their capacity to get involved in the fight against maternal and infant mortality by requiring that Local Council 1 in the Country do maintain a register of pregnant women in the village, indicating the outcome of the pregnancy, and make returns to the Sub- country quarterly which in turn should compile half-yearly reports to be transmitted to the District. Further, Government rolls out village health teams to all districts, and empowers them to enhance their capacity in the fight against maternal and infant mortality.
6. That Government compiles and tables to Parliament annual reports on the status of maternal health in the country with full national maternal mortality audit report and that Parliament shall dedicate a particular day to debate this report and propose the way forward.
7. That Government should urgently implement the accelerated PMTCT strategy in order to secure an AIDS free generation and also does scale up accessibility to a complete package of quality reproductive health services that include antenatal care, delivery care, postpartum care, family planning services, as well as access to comprehensive and basic emergency obstetric care services throughout the country.
8. That Government convenes a national convention for the dominant voices to reconcile their stand on family planning with a view of harmonizing family planning messages.

I certify that this resolution was passed by Parliament on 15th December 2011.



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Paul G. Wabwire
FOR CLERK TO PARLIAMENT

Clerk to Parliament