UGANDA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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OUR REF: UMA/NEC/31072023 **DATE: 31/07/2023**

PRESS RELEASE

Greetings from the National Executive Committee of the Uganda Medical Association.

We thank the government for its consideration to deploy 1901 medical interns to 58 internship centers across the country, this will sort some of our challenges including:

1. Exhaustion among the smaller number of health workers employed by the government in the different hospitals approved as internship centers.
2. It will help to reduce the patients suffering as a result of long patient waiting time, untimely emergency health care, and increased mortality.

We appreciate the government for dropping the idea of a self-sponsored internship and considered providing an allowance to take care of the welfare of medical interns. It is unfortunate however that the allowances has been reduced as reported by the Ministry of Health due to a lack of enough funds in their budget, we hope that this will be corrected and follow the presidential directive on allowances of medical interns and Senior house officers after overcoming the current budget shortfalls. Uganda Medical Association had a consultative meeting with its members, including members of the elders' forum, graduate nurses, and pharmacists to discuss a way forward on the current situation of medical interns, and the following recommendations were made.

1. Advise medical interns to report to internship centers as posted by the Ministry of Health.
2. Uganda Medical Association to follow up on the presidential directive of 2.5M allowances for medical interns and Senior House Officers, to ensure that it is restored as a policy that has not been removed by the President and to continue engaging with the government to follow up on the completion of the internship and SHO policy.
3. Follow up on the prior engagement with the government to ensure that job evaluation for associate consultants is accomplished and the following activities are done to correct their salary discrepancies, as recommended by the secretary to cabinet and head of public service.
4. Suspend the earlier planned Industrial action which was meant to start on 1st August 2023.

Service with Honor.

Dr. Herbert Luswata
Secretary-General

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