



**UGANDA MEDICAL AND DENTAL
PRACTITIONERS COUNCIL**

Highly Credited Doctors, Dentists Council for Doctor's Employment

The NRM government interest in improving Uganda's population health and livelihoods is evidenced by its provision of free health services at public health facilities, Dr Kisuule Ivan says.

The Ag. Registrar of Uganda Medical & Dental Practitioners Council says the Council's contribution to implementing

the NRM manifesto is by ensuring the provision of health services by qualified professionals.

They must meet the medical and dental profession's minimum qualifications and standards and observe their professional ethical conduct. Those skilled human resources, which the council regulates, provide the services.

Dr Kisuule notes that reports on Ugandan doctors employed abroad highly credit them for their professionalism, ethical conduct and skill, to the delight of the Council.

He is an internal medicine physician, a specialist on the diseases of the internal organs; such as the lungs, the heart and the kidneys whose previous posting was

Doctors, Dentists Council for Members Employment

at Mulago National Referral Hospital as a physician.

Under its regulation mandate of the medical and dental education, the Council inspects the medical and dental schools to establish and ensure compliance with the minimum standards of training, leading to the acceptable doctors' standards and quality.

"We believe that the number of qualified doctors is adequate to cater for the population, hence I implore the government to recruit them to improve the access to quality health care around the country and thus a healthy productive population," he says.

The government has recently passed a human resource structure in health facilities providing for posting a medical doctor to each Health Centre III, a good step to taking services closer to the people, if implemented.

He commended the government for sponsoring the training of many doctors, and added that "It will be good if it employed them, lest they look elsewhere for a livelihood. This is taking the right direction so that the country does not lose them."

The Council's obligations under its mandate include the medical schools' supervision and inspection around the country; registration and licensing of qualified Doctors; ensuring compliance to ethics and professionalism among the doctors that have been registered and conducting ethical inquiries on the doctors who have engaged in professional malpractices.

The registrar pledges to ensure that the council fulfills its mandate, in the area of registration and licensing. Every qualified doctor in the country must be registered by the council. They are required to annually renew their licenses as proof of their practice legally within and without Uganda.

He wants to see improvement in the doctors' compliance to this requirement. Some doctors are practicing without a valid practicing licence, which is bound to happen because humans are prone to making omissions which catch up with them at a certain point.



Dr. Ivan Kisuule
Ag. Registrar UMDPC

Before the process of renewing the annual practicing license was available online, it required physical visits to the council. This annual pilgrimage is logistically straining to those serving in far-flung geographic areas, from which the travel is time-consuming, and sometimes difficult and expensive. Yet those who are self-employed may not see its urgency.

The Council is keenly aware of good health's contribution to socio-economic development; healthy people work, generate income and contribute to economic development. The medical and dental practitioners' council therefore ensures that the health services providers; the doctors and dentists are qualified, professional and capable to provide the health services the population requires, to have a healthy and productive population.

Dr Kisuule promises to institute a mechanism that will ensure that a large part of doctors is compliant, by streamlining their on-line registration and operating licenses renewal on line. A doctor and dentist's license is the proof of their authorisation to practice. A penalty is imposed for the period one skips the renewal.

We need to ensure that the people delivering the health services do so legally and professionally. This also applies to public health officers who are primarily doctors with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery who then mastered in Public Health, and are registered with the Council.

Dr. Kisuule advises the public that when they visit a healthy facility, they need to look out for the clinic's valid operating license. With calendar year validity, it is issued to a duly registered health facility. Furthermore, a bona fide medical doctor should have an operating license authorizing the running of a clinic, displayed at the clinic's reception.

An on-duty doctor in a consultation room should have bear identification, a name tag and cadre like Dr Mugabi – Psychiatrist displayed on a badge on their chest. A patient has the right to know the individual treating them while it is the proprietor's obligation to identify the people working at their medical facility.

The Council continually updates the register of its professionals as the practitioners graduate every year; by March 2023, the register had 8,300 medical doctors and dentists.

