

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH HELD ON
TUESDAY, 15TH MARCH, 2022 IN SOUTH COMMITTEE ROOM, SECOND
FLOOR, SOUTH WING, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Members present

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| 1. Hon. Ssebikaali Yoweri | Chairperson |
| 2. Hon. Dr Charles Ayume | Member |
| 3. Hon. Lematia Ruth Molly Ondoru | Member |
| 4. Hon. Dr Didi George Bhoka | Member |
| 5. Hon. Nakato Mary Annet | Member |
| 6. Hon. Dr Ninkusiima John Paul | Member |
| 7. Hon. Dr Elisa Rutahigwa | Member |
| 8. Hon. Nebanda Florence Andiru | Member |
| 9. Hon. Chelain Betty Louke | Member |
| 10. Hon. Laker Sharon Balmoy | Member |
| 11. Hon. Otimgiw Isaac Ismael | Member |
| 12. Hon. Col. Dr Nekesa Victor | Member |



In attendance

School proprietors and parents

1. Mr Eric Senyonjo Proprietor, St. Anne Primary School, Kabowa
2. Ms Janipher Wamboka Victory Lane Christian School
3. Ms Carol Ssekandi Parent of St. Anne Preparatory School
4. Ms Justine B Kulayigye St. Anne Preparatory School

Committee Secretariat

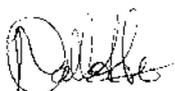
1. Ms Catherine Namuddu Senior Clerk Assistant
2. Mr Watuwa Muniri Mbosero Clerk Assistant

	<p>into home schooling.</p> <p>The relationship between schools and parents will get sour.</p> <p>There are fines but incentives can motivate people.</p>	
<p>Min.5</p> <p>15/03/2022</p>	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>To achieve targets/aspirations in the education sector, there is need for a healthy body and mind.</p> <p>There is need to establish the correlation between the Public Health (Amendment) Bill and the School Health Policy.</p> <p>Does the Bill bring out the role of the Ministry of Education?</p> <p>Schools are reservoirs for diseases. Does the school environment provide an opportunity for disease surveillance?</p> <p>Is the school reporting system for health matters always up to date and accurate so as to prevent a recurrence of the 2021 second wave of COVID?</p> <p>Do all schools have sufficient health facilities to handle emergency cases, mild or basic symptoms? Is school-based care sufficient?</p> <p>Which criteria should be used for closing schools? Is the justification enough?</p> <p>Who takes a decision on referrals for sick school children?</p> <p>In case of infected materials or clothings,</p>	<p>Committee</p>

	<p>how should they be handled in schools?</p> <p>Which incentives should be provided to motivate people to adhere to health standards?</p> <p>The presentation is tilted towards COVID as the current public health threat, yet public health is bigger than that.</p> <p>For children to join schools, they are asked for children's immunisation cards.</p> <p>Parents consent to schools to administer emergency treatment.</p> <p>Do unimmunised children pose a threat to those who are immunised?</p> <p>How can the interests of parents and those of religious sects be legislated for so as to create a balance?</p> <p>There is need to guard against legal lacunas.</p> <p>Children go to schools in different localities, so, reaching the parent may be hard. There are parents whose children are sponsored by other people and the parents have no phones.</p> <p>How is parental consent obtained before punishing children?</p> <p>Water scarcity in schools, over-crowding, school-feeding programmes are all public health threats.</p> <p>Fires are an epidemic in schools. Which measures should be put in place to reduce them?</p>	
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	There is need to distinguish between routine vaccination and emergency vaccination.	
Min. 6 15/03/2022	<p>Responses to matters arising</p> <p>The presentation focussed on COVID-related issues because the law seems to have been brought in a rush due to the outbreak of the novel Corona virus.</p> <p>Once people are well-informed, they will embrace vaccination. Putting words like mandatory and heavy fines is not good. S</p> <p>School foras like parents, teachers' associations (PTA), management foras should be utilised to popularise school health programmes. What is needed is enough information and proper communication.</p> <p>There is a lot of indoctrination in schools</p>	St. Anne
Min. 7 15/03/2022	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>Before adjournment, it was observed that there seems to be a communication gap between the Ministry of Education and private school proprietors.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 11.45a.m.</p>	

RECORDED BY



Catherine Namuddu

Senior Clerk Assistant

APPROVED BY



Ssebikaali Yoweri (MP)

Chairperson

FROM: ERIC SENYONJO PROPRIETOR ST ANNE'S PREPARATORY DAY AND BOARDING SCHOOL KABOWA.

TO: PARLIAMENTARY HEALTH COMMITTEE-PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

DATE: 04TH MARCH 2022

RE: MEMORANDA ON THE CLAUSES STATED IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH (AMMENDMENT) BILL, 2021

INTRODUCTION

I am a Ugandan with a Medical background in the area of Medical Entomology and also overseeing a Primary School. I appreciate the opportunity given to the population to express their opinions on the Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2021 that is presently before the Parliamentary Health Committee. With the hope that this Bill is to ensure good welfare, promote better Health and improve wellbeing of the Ugandan population, it's for this reason that I request to be heard to express my views. I also acknowledge the government's right and duty to put measures in place, such as vaccinations, that would ensure the general welfare of the masses.

Following the notice to the Public inviting us to share our opinions on the amendments that are being proposed for the Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2021, I hereby submit my opinions which I believe will help the nation come up with a better, acceptable and relevant bill that will contribute to the general wellbeing while upholding the rights of the people of our great Nation, the Pearl Of Africa.

No.	PART IN THE BILL	CLAUSE IN THE BILL	ISSUE	RECOMMENDATION
1	Clause 31 Vaccination of children part VII – Amendment to part VII of the Principal Act.	Clause 31(1) seeks to substitute section 38 of the principal Act by stating that the parent or guardian of every child resident in Uganda shall within twelve months from birth cause the child to be vaccinated by a public vaccinator against the disease that may be declared by the Minister.	Parents/ guardians of our children know their medical history. So they need to be consulted, informed, educated prior to these vaccinations. This will eliminate untracked double vaccinations. Therefore schools, institutions should not be held responsible for the decisions of others.	Mandatory vaccination should not be permitted in Uganda Let it be based on informed voluntary consent, for the new vaccinations which seek to be included many are still in the trial phase. This covers the psychological welfare of the children / students, parents and other stakeholders.

			<p>Should there be any arising medical consequence as a result of these vaccinations as has been the case with the experimental COVID-19 vaccine, it's the parent or guardian to bear the initial burden which is not limited to but includes financial.</p> <p>All drugs carry risks and benefits, the benefits should outweigh the risks before being administered as has been with earlier vaccines.</p>	
2	Part VIII – Amendment Two Part VII of the Principal Act	Clause 47 (1)(b) A local Government council shall require any person in the local Government to be vaccinated or revaccinated and shall require the parent or guardian of any child to have the child vaccinated or revaccinated	<p>Science recognises Natural Immunity which a form of vaccination already. So those who have recovered from the disease could also be recognised as vaccinated and given a certificate. Therefore allowed to be admitted in schools among other privileges.</p> <p>The bill vests so much powers to authorities in the Local Government which risks being abused as may not necessarily be the case with other shortcomings of the Law.</p>	<p>There should be consent of Parent or Guardian as the practice has been with other medical treatments.</p> <p>The Legal and immediate guardian of the Child shouldn't be left out of such important decisions because they later bear the burden should anything go wrong. It sounds Dictatorial to leave them out.</p>

3	Clause 133 A	<p>133A.Punishment without prosecution. (1) The minister may in consultation with the Ministers responsible for internal affairs, the Authority and local governments make rules for offences created by the this Act or under rules made under this Act, for which a person who commits the offence may be given a notice in writing offering that person the opportunity to discharge any liability to conviction for the offence by payment of the fixed penalty.</p>	<p>The law its self says, one isn't guilty until proven so.</p> <p>Punishment without Prosecution is in a way a form of Mob justice, which violates human rights.</p> <p>It's for this reason that courts of law and other similar institutions exist. This act deliberately infringes on the human rights and is an act of dictatorship over the masses. It's constitutional for someone t o be heard before penalising.</p> <p>He or she could have some wisdom which could help saving the masses or a science discovery.</p>	<p>The alleged perpetrator should be presented before a committee for a fair hearing.</p>
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