



**MOTION SEEKING LEAVE OF PARLIAMENT TO INTRODUCE A PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL TO REGULATE "NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES"**

*(Moved under Article 79 and 94 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995 and Rules 56, 121 and 122 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament)*

**WHEREAS** Article 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda empowers Parliament to make laws on any matter for the peace, order, development and good governance of Uganda;

**AND WHEREAS** Article 94(4)(b) of the same Constitution and Rule 121 (1) of the Rules of Procedure permit a Member of Parliament to introduce a Private Member's Bill;

**NOTING THAT** Uganda is signatory to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 Convention against illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which treaties obligate Uganda as a state party to enact a policy and legal framework to regulate the use and illicit trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances;

**FURTHER NOTING THAT** the World Drug Report, 2021 reveals that substance use is a growing challenge in Africa with a 40% increase by 2030 in the number of drug users in Africa and for the case of Uganda, the 2022 Police Annual Crime Report revealed that there were a total of 2,797 cases of narcotics Drug use country-wide in 2022 with 4,818 suspects including 137 juveniles arrested and charged in court;

**AWARE THAT** Parliament passed the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Bill, 2016 on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2014, the Act was assented to by H.E the President on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2015, published in Uganda Gazette no. 7 on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016 and commenced on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016 by Statutory Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act (Commencement) Instrument, 2016;

**FURTHER AWARE THAT** the aim of the Act was to, adopt measures to criminalize drug related offences under domestic law in conformity with Article 3 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and other related international conventions, control the possession of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, regulate the cultivation of certain plants, provide for the forfeiture of property derived from illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and

psychotropic substances in order to generate resources for law enforcement agencies, establish mechanisms for the rehabilitation of drug addicts and put in place measures to save Uganda from being a transit route for prohibited drugs among others;

**CONCERNED THAT** on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2023, the Constitutional Court vide Wakiso Miraa Growers and Dealers Association Limited Vs Attorney General of Uganda Constitutional Petition No. 001 of 2017, declared the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act, 2015 null and void for lack of quorum on the part of Parliament contrary to the existing law governing Parliament;

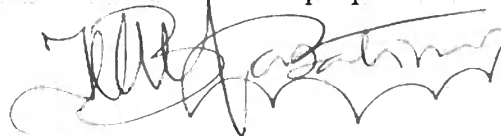
**FURTHER CONCERNED THAT** the absence of a law that regulates and prohibits the cultivation, possession, consumption, use, sale, purchase, distribution, transportation, exportation, importation and other dealings in or related to Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances exposes our children and youth to the negative consequences of drug abuse which are physical (liver disease, respiratory problems, cardiovascular disease, and various types of cancer), mental (increased risk of depression and anxiety) and social (strained relationships with family and friends, financial problems and difficulty maintaining employment);

**CONVINCED THAT** if the production and cultivation of harmful plants continues unregulated and the promotion of use of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is left to permeate and infiltrate our society, knowing that many youths are being lured and initiated into drug abuse, Uganda will end up with an unhealthy, unproductive and uncontrollable society;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** be it resolved by Parliament that:

This House grants me leave to introduce a Private Members Bill, for an Act to regulate, "**NARCOTICS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES**" a draft of which is hereto attached and do order the publication of the said Bill in preparation for its FIRST READING.

I beg to move.



**MOVER** : BASALIRWA ASUMAN (MP)  
**BUGIRI MUNICIPALITY**

**SECONDER** : KOMAKECH CHRISTOPHER, (MP)  
**ARUU COUNTY, PADER**

