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UGANDA

IN ANY CORRESPONDENCE ON ADM.196/284/03

15<sup>th</sup> April 2024

All: Chief Administrative Officer,  
Resident District Commissioners,  
District Health Officers,

### **UNAUTHORIZED DELIVERY OF PREGNANT WOMEN BY TRADITIONAL BIRTH ATTENDANTS (TBAS)**

The Ministry of Health has steadily improved access to quality maternal and newborn healthcare services throughout the country. This has resulted in a significant increase in the survival rates of mothers and their newborns.

The Government of Uganda, through the Ministry of Health, is committed to ending preventable maternal and newborn deaths by 2030. While we appreciate the historical role TBAs have played in assisting pregnant mothers within our communities, their knowledge and skills cannot adequately identify and manage pregnancy-related complications. This significantly contributes to negative maternal and newborn health outcomes.

Therefore, to ensure the best possible birth outcomes for both mothers and newborns, the Ministry of Health directs that all pregnant women receive care from “skilled birth attendants”. This collaborative effort will significantly contribute to achieving our goal of ending preventable maternal and newborn deaths. The MoH recommends that the district health officers organize dialogue meetings with TBAs to explain this position.

The purpose of this communication is to request all district leaders nationwide to be part of this campaign aimed at ending preventable maternal and newborn deaths by stopping TBAs from delivering pregnant mothers. TBAs should be repurposed as referral agents for mothers to deliver in health facilities. The TBAs who insist and continue the practice will be held liable for any poor outcome/maternal deaths arising out of their actions.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

A blue ink signature of Dr. Henry G. Mwebesa.

Dr. Henry G. Mwebesa  
**DIRECTOR GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES**

- cc. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health
- cc: Permanent Secretary, Ministry for the Presidency
- cc: Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government
- cc: Director Health Services, Ministry of Health
- cc. Commissioner Reproductive & Child Health