

## **MEMBERS OF UGANDA BANKERS ASSOCIATION AND THE DEPOSIT PROTECTION FUND OF UGANDA CONTRIBUTE UGX 440 MILLION TOWARDS FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19**

April 22, 2020

Members of Uganda Bankers Association and the Deposit Protection fund have today contributed a sum of Ugx 440,325,000/= (Four Hundred Forty Million Three Hundred Twenty Five Shillings) towards the fight against Corona pandemic in response to Government's call for support to join hands in not only avoiding or limiting the spread of COVID 19, but also supporting its detection, prevention and treatment including support to the frontline health workers and health institutions.

This financial support will be channeled to two areas namely

a) Ugx 240,325,000/= for Procurement of Personal Protective Equipment for the Health Workers at the frontline in this effort against COVID-19 under the **Ministry of Health**.

b) Ugx 200,000,000/= for Financial Support to **Makerere University's Department of Immunology & Molecular Biology, College of Health Sciences** who are in the advanced stages of producing rapid test kits for COVID-19. This intervention is to support enablement of rapid test capabilities that if distributed to the health centers across the country would assist in addressing the shortage/gaps and by extension boost screening, detection & management therein of COVID-19 cases as appropriate.

Testing has been identified as crucial in mitigating the spread of the corona virus, and countries like Uganda still have limited testing capabilities with only the virus institute at Entebbe currently carrying out tests. Mass testing is currently very expensive with a single test currently going for up to US 65.

The Acting UBA Chairman, Mr. Mathias Katamba said the support extended by supervised financial institutions is targeted at reaching over 20,000 health workers & facilitating 53,000 tests across the country.

Provision of more test kits developed domestically addresses the challenge of affordability/cost issues that would otherwise have to be imported, promotes research/innovation in the medical/health field and supports Makerere University's research efforts as an academic institution including the recognition of individuals therein Mr. Katamba said.

Mathias added that Makerere is a reputable institution and the industry is honored to associate itself with this wonderful effort whose benefits are likely to extend beyond the COVID 19 crisis since test kits can be applied in other viral emergencies/circumstances of both an epidemic or as well as non-epidemic nature.

Mr. Patrick Kagoro, the Board Chairman of the Deposit Protection Fund said that supporting the health workers with protective gear is like reinforcing security around a home, a community, a country. Mr. Kagoro saluted the health workers for standing by their professional oaths, for the courage and sacrifice they are demonstrating and for their commitment to safeguard the population. He applauded their efforts.

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