

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
ON THE
STATUS OF THE AVAILABILITY OF INSULIN IN KALABO DISTRICT

Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to give this statement, which arose from the last question raised by the hon. Member for Kalabo Central, concerning the status of the availability of insulin in Kalabo District.

Madam Speaker, I wish to, once again, thank you for granting me this opportunity to update the House and the nation at large, on the status of the availability of insulin in Kalabo District. The House may wish to recall that on 4th October, 2022, during the Question for Oral Answer segment, the Hon. Madam Speaker directed me to issue a ministerial statement on the shortage of insulin in Kalabo District of the Western Province. Additionally, she also guided that a fact-finding mission be undertaken to get to the people on the ground in Kalabo to establish whether this insulin is, indeed, available. She instructed me to come back to this House on Friday, 7th October, 2022, with the statement on this matter.

Madam Speaker, your directive followed a question that was posed by Hon. Miyutu, Member of Parliament for Kalabo Central Constituency, who wanted to know whether the Government was aware that there is a critical shortage of insulin at all public health facilities in Kalabo District and, if so, what urgent measures were being taken to ensure availability of insulin in the district to prevent loss of lives.

Madam Speaker, Kalabo District has a total number of thirty-three health facilities and an estimated catchment population of 102,000 people. The breakdown of the health facilities in Kalabo District is as follows:

- (a) two first level hospitals;
- (b) twelve health centres; and

(c) nineteen health posts.

Madam Speaker, the House may wish to note that out of thirty-three health facilities in Kalabo District, only two health facilities and the district health office are expected to store and administer insulin, considering that this is a specialised drug.

Madam Speaker, I wish to inform the House that the Government, through the Ministry of Health, undertook a fact-finding mission on 6th October, 2022, to the three facilities, namely Kalabo District Health Office, Kalabo District Hospital, and Yuka Adventist Mission Hospital. I am pleased to inform the House that the findings of this technical mission are as follows:

(a) *Kalabo District Health Office*

The technical team found that from January 2022 to date, the District Health Office (DHO) has had a total of forty vials of soluble insulin (short acting insulin) and seventy-four vials of mixtard (a combination, of short and long acting insulin). The expiry date for this insulin stored at this facility was September 2023;

(b) *Kalabo District Hospital*

The technical mission team found two batches of soluble insulin:

- (i) 110 vials with expiry date of September 2023;
- (ii) five vials of soluble insulin with expiry date of October 2022; and
- (iii) seventy-two vials of mixtard insulin with expiry date of September 2023, and eight vials of long acting insulin with expiry date of November 2022; and

(c) *Yuka Adventist Mission Hospital*

On the day of visit, the technical mission team found twenty vials of soluble insulin (short acting insulin) with an expiry date of September 2023, twenty mixtard insulin (combination of short acting and long acting insulin), with expiry date of September 2023, and seven long acting insulin expiring in November 2022.

Observations of the Findings

Madam Speaker, allow me to make the following observations on the findings of the technical mission team:

- (a) Kalabo District has 155 vials of soluble (short acting insulin), 146 vials of mixtard (a combination of short and long acting insulin), and fifteen long acting insulin, translating into four to thirty-seven months of stock based on consumption, which relates to the population that would need this.

Madam Speaker, the above quantities are consistent with the quantities that I submitted in my earlier response to the Question for Oral Answer on Tuesday, 4th October, 2022, on the shortage of insulin in public health facilities in Kalabo District.

- (b) The stock levels of insulin in Kalabo district are above the recommended maximum of four months of stock expected to be stored in the district. This is according to our established logistical inventory system.
- (c) Yuka Adventist Mission Hospital has had a supply of long acting insulin since January 2022, while short acting insulin and mixtard (mixture of short acting and long acting insulin) were only received on 6th October, 2022, from Kalabo District Health Office.

Madam Speaker, as I conclude, allow me to state that Kalabo District is over-stocked with insulin and my ministry is putting in place interventions to facilitate redistribution to avoid wastage of insulin due to expiration.

Madam Speaker, allow me to also state that not until 6th October, 2022, Yuka Adventist Mission Hospital has had available long acting insulin while soluble (short acting insulin) and mixtard insulin (mixture of short acting and long acting) were not available.

Madam, I wish to lay on the Table of this House the following documents for verification:

(a) Goods received Note; and

(b) Stock Control Cards.

Madam Speaker, I thank you