

6th October 2021

The Inspectorate of Government  
P.O Box 1682  
Kampala.



**Hon .Dr. Monica Musenero Fleeces Government of 59 Billion in Fake Solutions to COVID-19**

At the beginning of 2020, the world was hit by a pandemic in form of a deadly virus which later got code named COVID -19. This virus created panic in all corners of the world including Uganda given the thousands of deaths that was registered in different countries on a daily basis due to COVID. This prompted H.E the President of Uganda to call upon Dr. Monica Musenero who had been working on management of Ebola to come and offer support based on her perceived experience in handling animal-to-human diseases. Upon her appointment as Senior Presidential Advisor on Epidemics early 2020, Dr. Monica Musenero handpicked a number of scientists and researchers to develop strategies on how science, technology and innovation could be deployed to develop solutions to COVID-19 pandemic. She subsequently formed an outfit called Presidential Scientific Initiative on Epidemics (PRESIDE). Dr. Musenero later turned around to use PRESIDE to fleece billions of shillings from Government coffers, the Veterinary Doctor reportedly made lots of empty promises to HE President that she is now suppressing anyone whom she suspects knows the truth and can alert the President on her sinister and empty promises to him.

When H. E. the President directed that fund should be availed to support the scientists that Dr. Musenero was working with on Covid-19 research and innovation under PRESIDE, a supplementary fund of overUGX 17 Billion was quickly processed through the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MoSTI), specifically to procure research equipment and support research operations of her COVID scientists. From the onset this decision of routing funds through MoSTI did not go down well with Dr. Musenero who did not hide her dissatisfaction because she wanted the money to be channeled through the State House Comptroller. According to records accessed by our team, PRESIDE received uptoUGX 34.272 Billion in FY 2020/2021 alone through MoSTI, another UGX 25 billion is given to

PRESIDE in FY 2021/2022, in addition to huge sums disbursed to her from State House. Dr. Musenero used coercion and threats that reportedly put Government officials on their toes to buy equipment directly from manufacturers. A number of equipment's including one famous "Dr. Oligo" were acquired as early as January 2021. Given the kind of assurance the President has received from Dr. Musenero and her team, he has always promised the country at every National address that Uganda is soon going to use its own locally developed vaccine and treatment against COVID-19. "Dr. Oligo" is an expensive equipment that was not necessary and up to now, it is lying idle in boxes given that the people that ordered for it don't even know how to use it and will soon be obsolete.

## **Facts on the Ground**

Our team carried out a coveted investigation to establish facts on the ground and discovered the following:

1. The scientists in question were handpicked by Dr. Musenero without a specific criteria developed. It was discovered that she picked those she considered "easy to work with" as I will demonstrate below. If the formula was about COVID solutions, one wonders how Dr. Musenero left out Dr. Ogwang who already had prototypes of herbal medicines in place.
2. Dr. Musenero negotiated and approved budgets for each scientist for each project, each scientist selected the manufacturer to supply the equipment and they developed the technical specifications for the equipment which were allocated to the individual scientists. One wonders how a heavy duty machine, costing billions gets allocated to an individual? This means it can never be put to optimal use! Moreover, a number of scientists quickly registered companies, irrespective of the fact that they are working in Universities. The money is channeled to their private companies. We also discovered that some specific scientists one Dr. Kityo Cissy had been allocated 4 projects worth UGX 4.7 Billion. This raises many questions. How can one person deliver on 4 projects in an emergency situation? Can deliverables for this kind of money be availed? Or was this a move to channel out Government funds to serve other interests?
3. Our team established more shocking discoveries. To date, no tangible results have been achieved. In fact some of the procured equipment are still in boxes and some of the scientists do not know how to operate them. One scientist who preferred



anonymity intimated to our team that the vaccine under testing at the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biosecurity in Makerere is for ticks as opposed to COVID. Hence, there is no candidate vaccine developed in Uganda, nor is there a candidate drug being developed by Dr. Musenero's scientists!. A reliable source that reviewed the protocol for the vaccine confirmed to us that Dr. Musenero and team knows clearly that they will never come with COVID vaccine but continues laying to the President. In fact in one particular case it was noted that Dr. Musenero connived with a scientist and picked huge sums of money disguising that they are doing research yet they were testing honey and lemon concoction.

4. There is reportedly a big audit query from the Auditor General's office and accountability issues that Dr. Musenero has failed to answer. Part of her strategy of forcefully locking out the MoSTI offices and trying to chase the staff away is to get rid of people who know and have these facts. In one particular incident she turned around and picked money as a researcher herself and yet at the same time she should select and award scientists, this is a serious conflict of interest.
5. When H.E announced a new Cabinet in June 2021, he moved the functions of MoSTI to the Office of the President. This was followed by Parliamentary resolution on re-allocation of funds from Vote 023: Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation to Vote 001 : Office of the President. However, Dr. Musenero has been fighting fiercely to take the money and the STI function to State House not to Office of the President. This is motivated by selfish interests knowing that at State House there is classified expenditure with potential to abuse tax payer's money. . In such a scenario, she would have liberty to swindle as much money as she wishes without accounting to the public.
6. Another shocker is about kickbacks from the allocated scientists is that one scientist who preferred anonymity told our team that Dr. Musenero has been at the center of coercing for kickbacks to the extent that she demands for evidence that the scientist has "delivered" as agreed. She has in some fora admitted to having a bank slip of such a transaction and making attempts to use it to frame the scientists possibly due to failure to deliver to her demands. Our team discovered with great shock that the self-styled Minister is fighting hard to move the Ministry headquarters from Rume Building on Lumumba Avenue to her incomplete house located in Naguru. This further clearly

demonstrates the level of greed she holds to the extent to which she is ready to flout procedure and the law to satisfy her personal interests.

The issues above raise many questions. Has this whole COVID response initiative given value for money? Was the selection of scientists based on kickbacks or potential? How did expensive machines end up with individuals and their private companies? Maybe it is now time for the relevant authorities to find out what PRESIDE can show for the billions of shillings spent of Covid-19 research.

The purpose of this letter is to submit this complaint to your good office for your further investigation, prosecution and making appropriate orders and which are within the responsibility of inspectorate of government of eliminating corruption, abuse of authority and public office.

From

**Concerned & Patriotic Ugandans.**