MONDAY,
APRIL 24, 2017
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Tourism queen launches peace walk. The reigning Miss Tourism for Rwenzori sub-region, Ms Daphine Betty Kajumba, has launched a walk for peace and reconciliation in the region. Under the theme 'Sustainable Peace and Tourism', Ms Kajumba believes the numerous instabilities in the region affect the tourism sector and hence the need to prevent ethnic and political tensions. The walk is slated for May 6 at Rwenzori Square in Kasese Town. [Moris Mumbere, Monitor]



811 health personnel face arrest

Reason. The health workers are practising illegally.

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MBARARA. The Allied Health Professionals Council Uganda (AHPC), a body charged with regulating and supervising health professionals in the country has revealed that 811 local government health workers in central and south western regions are practising illegally.

This was revealed during the ongoing verification exercise of health professionals in the 35 districts of central and south western region.

The systems administrator at AHPC, Mr Andrew Seryazi, said the ministry is verifying health professionals who are employed by local governments and are not registered or do not have annual practicing licenses. AHPC supervises the registration of allied health professionals and publishes their names in the gazzete.

"We are carrying out a verification exercise so that we are be able to make clear recommendations to the district authorities on what should be done," Mr Seryazi said.

Requirements

He added: "To start operating as a medic, one must have a registration certificate and an Annual Practicing Licence (APL) but some of them do not have their APLs. Some use dead people's academic documents whereas some use forged documents."

Mr Seryazi said it is the role of the chief administrative officers and district health officers to ensure that all health workers are gazzeted and have APLs.

He accused some district leaders of sabotaging the verification exercise by blocking them from accessing personnel files. "Some district authorities block us from accessing personnel files since they know that there are individuals who do not qualify to practice," Mr Seryazi said.

The AHPC coordinator for south western region, Mr Samuel Nahanga, said the verification exercise will last for two weeks.

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>
> MR ANDREW SERYAZI

The central region Allied Health Professionals coordinator, Mr Micheal Mubiru Kayizzi, accused chief administrative officers of allowing quack health workers to continue operating.

Citing an example of a one Justine Arinaitwe, who is working as a laboratory assistant at Mpumudde Health Centre III, Mr Kayizzi said: "We made recommendations to the chief administrative officer but since 2013, she is still working as a lab assistant heading the department at the health centre."

"Since we have given districts enough time to deal with the quacks and they have failed, we await a decision from the Allied Health Professionals' Council disciplinary board and we shall take the individuals to court on criminal charges.

However, the Lyantonde District chief administrative officer, Mr Christopher Okumu, denied receiving any recommendations from the council notifying him of the laboratory assistant.

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