



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**STATEMENT BY THE HON. MINISTER OF TRADE
INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES ON THE PHASED
LIFTING OF THE LOCKDOWN**

22nd JULY 2020

I would like to thank fellow Ugandans for having complied with the protective measures that were put in place to contain the spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Indeed the measures have had a positive result that the novel virus has been contained in Uganda unlike in other countries that never complied as Ugandans did.

During H.E the President's 16th address to the Nation on the 22nd June 2020 on Covid-19, lockdown measures in various sectors were relaxed in addition to directives to the Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Kampala Capital City and Metropolitan Affairs to;

- a) Engage with arcade owners to identify arcades to pilot operationalization of COVID-19 prevention guidelines.
- b) Review and enhance COVID-19 compliance measures in the open shopping centers

particularly in Kikuubo and other downtown centers.

On the 26th June 2020, the Minister of Trade Industry and Cooperatives and that of Kampala Capital City and Metropolitan Affairs, the Senior Presidential Advisor on epidemics, and representatives from Ministry of Health and Uganda Police held a meeting that resolved to establish a technical committee comprising of the following members; the Resident City Commissioner (RCC-Kampala as the Chairperson), officials from Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Ministry of Health, KCCA, the senior Presidential Advisor on Epidemics, Uganda Police, representatives of the landlords, tenants and the trader's representatives. The committee was directed to develop guidelines for safe operation of the arcades.

I therefore, applaud the Technical Committee for having developed and submitted the draft guidelines which were adopted and further approved by the scientific committee.

Subsequently, the Public Health Inspectorate Team of KCCA, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Uganda Police and the Senior Presidential Advisor on epidemics together with the landlords and tenants representatives started carrying out the inspection on the 08th July 2020 to assess the level of compliance to the set Standard Operating Procedures in the Central Business District of Kampala.

The following areas were examined during the inspection process:

- a. Structural status of the premises in regard to lighting and ventilation and access ways/corridors;

- b. Availability of screening areas (plan of entry and exit points, visible posters on use of masks, social distancing and respiratory hygiene, use of masks, isolation room, body temperature monitoring, availability of CCTV cameras)
- c. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); availability of water, functional toilets, hand hygiene stations, hygiene situation of the toilets)
- d. Arcade management preparedness (availability of compliance officers, registration of shop owners and attendants, availability of detergents and sanitizers, and similar consumables)
- e. Waste management (both solid and liquid, are there dustbins and is there segregation of wastes, is waste water properly disposed in the sewer?)
- f. Social distancing aspects (are there social distancing labels and strings/tapes to control human traffic)

Inspection of the implementation status of the agreed SOPs in arcades commenced on the **08th July 2020** and as of **21st July 2020**, **171** arcades have been inspected, **113** found compliant and **58** arcades not compliant.

In H.E, the Presidents' 17th address to the Nation on the 21st July 2020, the President directed compliant arcades to open with effect from today 22nd July 2020 **(list to be shared)** while continuing to implement the SOPs such as;

1. Presence of temperature guns at entrances
2. Enough toilets
3. Everybody wearing a mask
4. No air conditioning
5. All customers be registered (names, telephone numbers and NIN)
6. No traders on road side
7. No

8. Traders on verandah
9. No people on the corridor
10. Washing hands and;
11. Social distancing

Non-compliant arcades shall be re-inspected and if found fit, they will be opened, non-compliant arcades will remain closed indefinitely.

Currently arcades are majorly outlets for imported goods however, I wish to re-echo the Presidents call to the private sector to instead use these arcades as outlets for locally manufactured.

Saloons

The President further directed that saloons should be opened on the 22nd July 2020 and must observe SOPs Saloons were also opened immediately but should observe such as;

1. Social distancing
2. Have temperature guns

3. Hair dressers and barbers to wear masks and face shields

4. Customers should wear masks

We thank the saloon operators for having organised themselves into associations which have enabled them to come up with draft SOPs as a subsector. I therefore implore them to implement SOPs as agreed.

The President also directed that the curfew time be revised to start at 09:00pm up to 5:30am which gives more time for productive activities in our economy to be undertaken.

In conclusion, Government is considering re-opening the remaining subsectors which are still under lockdown in a phased manner.

Thank you very much