

**MOTION ON THE ACUTE KIDNEY INJURY RESULTING TO THE DEATH
OF AT LEAST 70 CHILDREN IN THE GAMBIA**
By Minority Leader, Honourable Alhagie S Darbo

Honourable Speaker,

I move that this august Assembly do consider and adopt a motion on the Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) resulting to the death of at least 70 children in The Gambia.

Honourable Speaker, the Assembly:

- (1) Noting with grave concern the news of the death of children by Acute Kidney Injury (AKI), which is being linked to some contaminated medicines;**
- (2) Expressing deep condolences and sympathy to the families and victims of this tragic incident;**
- (3) Noting government and health authorities ongoing investigations about the causes of this unfortunate death and the reported allegation of the contaminated drugs;**
- (4) Taking note of the preliminary investigation by The Gambia Police on the deaths of at least 70 children from Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) in The Gambia;**
- (5) Acknowledging the efforts of the government and in particular the Ministry of Health since the outbreak, notifying WHO as well as requested for an investigation into the matter;**
- (6) Recognising the action of the Ministry of Health in suspending and recalling the alleged contaminated drugs in The Gambia as well as raising alarm;**
- (7) Noting the medicine safety alert and directive issued by the Ministry of Health relating to all 'contaminated, substandard, and falsified medicinal products' sourced from Maiden Pharmaceuticals in India;**

- (8) Concerned that some quantity of alleged contaminated drugs are still unaccounted for or recalled;**
- (9) Appreciating that the Medicines Control Agency (MCA) has instructed all health care workers to stop prescribing, dispensing and use of all batches of the alleged contaminated drugs;**
- (10) Recognising the general constitutional powers of this Assembly to perform oversight over government operations and activities;**
- (11) Recognising the power of the Assembly to establish committees with the general mandate to inquire into the activities or administration of ministries or departments of the government;**
- (12) Cognisant of the power of Committees to investigate or inquire into any matter of public importance;**
- (13) Hon. Speaker, the Assembly now, THEREFORE, RESOLVED:**
- (a) That the Select Committee on Health, Refugees, Disaster and Humanitarian Relief, in accordance with the ToR herein, conducts a full-scale parliamentary inquiry into the matter of the AKI and related deaths with a view of unearthing the truth and circumstance surrounding this unfortunate incident, and to advise the Assembly accordingly;**
 - (b) That the Select Committee on Health submit its report and findings on the inquiry on or before 30th November, 2022;**
 - (c) That the Select Committee on Health be granted leave to meet during Session.**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- (1) The Select Committee inquiry seeks to establish the cause(s) and the impact of the AKI on children in The Gambia, and in particular inquire:**
 - (a) the root causes of the reported death of at least 70 children;**
 - (b) the effects of the contaminated medical syrups linked to the deaths;**
 - (c) the access to primary health care services on emergency cases especially for children;**
 - (d) the culpability of the suspected importers and pharmacies linked to contaminated drugs;**
 - (e) the impact of access to, and availability of, medical drugs, especially for children, has on emergency health service;**
 - (f) the effects of the prevailing legislation, the pharmacy council, medicines control agency on the pharmacy, licensing and medical regime of the country;**
 - (g) to consider proposal for a review of the legal and regulatory regime governing the pharmacy, medical drugs importation and store and licencing administration;**
 - (h) how the pharmacy license scheme is administered;**
 - (i) the effectiveness of current measures being undertaken by Ministry of Health to address the AKI cases and contaminated medical drugs;**
 - (j) to draw on other international best practices and protocols, possible strategies, initiatives, and actions that Ministry of Health should consider addressing the administration and impact of medical importation; and**
 - (k) any other related matter.**