



THE UGANDA COALITION FOR ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL MEDICINES
C/O HEPS UGANDA Kisingiri Road, Mengo, P.o.Box 2426, Kampala,
Tel. 256-41-270970 Email. heps@utlonline.co.ug

24th Nov 2003

**The Minister of Health,
Ministry of Health,
P.O Box 7272,
Kampala.**

Honourable Minister,

**LEGAL MECHANISMS FOR EXPANDING ACCESS TO GENERIC
MEDICINE IN UGANDA**

You may recall that The Uganda Coalition on Access to Essential Medicine approached you sometime in November 2002 seeking to explore ways of working with the Ministry of Health on issues of Patents and access to medicine. The Coalition has since been working with various stakeholders to clarify how patents may affect government efforts to protect the health of its citizens.

We are very pleased with your recent announcement that Uganda will make generic medicine available for all AIDS patients beginning next year. The coalition is highly supportive of this stand. However, while the current patent law in Uganda is supportive of access to generic drugs, it requires certain actions to be taken to bring the current and future supply of generic drugs within the law. Undertaking those actions is not only beneficial for the current initiatives, but also sets a precedent for any future health crises.

We are hereby attaching a memorandum containing details of the legal analysis and requesting for your action.

The coalition is willing to engage in any further discussion on the issue and to provide all expertise at its disposal to ensure that the “universal access initiative” stands on a solid legal foundation.

Your usual cooperation is highly appreciated.

Yours Sincerely,

Rosette Mutambi
Coordinator

CC: HONOURABLE MINISTER OF JUSTICE
CC: HONOURABLE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE
CC: REGISTRAR GENERAL
CC: DIRECTOR GENERAL UGANDA AIDS COMMISSION