

Mulago registers over 50 accident victims on Easter

By Violet Nabatanzi

Over 50 people are nursing severe injuries at Mulago Hospital after they were involved in separate accidents during the Easter holidays.

The hospital's spokesperson, Enock Kusasira, yesterday described the number of victims as high compared to normal days. "We usually register 30 to 35 accident victims on a daily basis. The number of road traffic accident victims has increased because people usually drive recklessly during such celebrations," Kusasira said.

He said some of the victims had undergone surgery. Most of the victims admitted were involved in bodaboda accidents.

Victims speak out

Rashid Mugabi, 30, of Mengo was knocked down on Easter by a bodaboda cyclist as he was crossing the road near his home.

Mugabi, who has undergone a brain CT-Scan, is being taken care of by his sister Mayi-Muuna.

A CT-Scan is used to check the brain for tumours or other lesions, injuries, bleeding in the brain, structural anomalies, infections, brain function changes and other conditions.

Silvesta Tabula, a resident of Mutundwe Kirinyabigo, was also knocked down by a



Enock Kusasira

BETWEEN THE LINES:

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bodaboda cyclist. He sustained a fractured leg and is currently admitted at the emergency and accident ward.

Twaha Musisi, 25, a resident of Entebbe Kigungu, was involved in a motor accident. His brother, who preferred anonymity, said health workers had recommended that Musisi undergoes a brain CT-Scan since he sustained severe head injuries. At the moment, he is unconscious.

Richard Musazi, 21, a resident of Mityana, was knocked down on Easter by a speeding taxi as he was crossing the road in Mityana town. He sustained a fractured leg.

Patrick Mujuni was knocked

down as he crossed the road in Nakawa on Easter Monday at around 11:00pm. He sustained a fractured leg.

Other victims are Ganius Asimwe, a resident of Mukono, who was knocked by a speeding vehicle. He sustained head injuries and a fractured upper limb.

Statistics

According to the Ministry of Health Management Information System (HMIS) 2015/2016, injuries accounted for 768,645 out of 53,561,472 total outpatient cases.

At Mulago, majority of the injury cases registered at the hospital caused by bodaboda cyclists. In 2013, the Makerere University College of Health Sciences, revealed that the hospital spends sh1.5b on treating bodaboda accident victims every year. "When weighed against the annual budget allocation of about sh2.4b to the directorate of surgery, this translates to 62.5%," the report stated.

The report highlighted that bodaboda accident victims spend 18% longer time in hospital than other trauma patients. "The average cost of managing a patient with bodaboda injuries is sh700,359 over the eight days (or more) hospital stay. Maintaining patients in the ward costs sh151,172,382, while the total theatre cost is sh73,642,813.

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