

Lira Hospital gets sh1.5b staff house

LIRA

By Joseph Ekol

Lira Hospital on Tuesday opened a sh1.5b staff housing block, which is expected to reduce the staff accommodation challenges.

During the site inspection, Lira resident, district commissioner (RDC) Robert Abak, almost rejected the building, citing shoddy work witnessed by cracks on the veranda, broken manholes and two poorly fixed kitchen doors.

He later accepted the structure on condition that the contractor would go back and rectify the problems.

The three-storeyed structure was designed to accommodate

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eight families. The construction project kicked off in January 2015 and was supposed to be completed by last year, but due to undisclosed reasons, the contract period was extended.

The Government, under the Ministry of Health, fully funded the project at sh1.5b.

The building has eight units; each unit has two bedrooms, a sitting room, kitchen and store and independent electric

metres for Yaka. The hospital director, Dr Bernard Odu, said only about 23% of the hospital staff have accommodation within the hospital staff quarters.

"I thank the Government of Uganda for funding the project. We still pray for more because only 23% of our staff sleep within the hospital and the rest sleep outside, making it difficult for them to handle emergencies," Odu said.

He also decried the growing rate of encroachment on hospital land by the locals and appealed to the Government to intervene.

RDC Abak accused the Lira municipal council authorities of allocating Government land to individuals.