

Sewage leakage at Kawempe, Kiruddu complicates cholera fight

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KAMPALA. A dreadful stench at Mulago's satellite hospitals of Kiruddu and Kawempe has complicated the fight against the recent outbreak of cholera in Kampala.

A visit by *Daily Monitor* to Kiruddu hospital yesterday came face to face with reality of septic tanks that were full to capacity with sewage overflowing and leaking into the drainage channel on Salama Road.

Likewise, at Kawempe hospital, the unbearable stinking sewage and uncollected garbage had forced the patients and hospital staff to cover their nostrils and mouth with handkerchiefs.

"We are fearing for our lives. This sewage and garbage stench is going to affect us with diseases and respiratory infections," a nurse, who preferred anonymity, said.

A lot of house flies could be seen hovering over a heap of garbage between the administration block and the admission block of the hospital. Others were seen flying in and out of the admission wards.

Security personnel, who man the entrance of Kiruddu hospital, revealed that the sewage problem has persisted for almost two years ever since Mulago patients were transferred to the facility.

Citing the challenge of overflowing sewage, the acting head of Kiruddu hospital, Dr Charles Kabugo, told a meeting chaired



Challenge. An overflow of sewage at Kiruddu hospital yesterday. PHOTO BY ALEX ESAGALA

by the permanent secretary, Dr Diana Atwine, on Monday that the hospital had chosen to transfer the cholera patients to Naguru hospital to avoid worsening the outbreak.

Dr Atwine said Shs5 billion had been budgeted to construct a lagoon to ease flow of sewage from the main septic tank.

"For Kawempe hospital, we have contacted National Water and Sewage Corporation and they have promised to connect the facility to the main sewage line," she said.

NAGURU PATIENTS TO BE TRANSFERRED

Meanwhile, Dr Frederick Mwangi of Naguru Hospital has said cholera patients will be admitted to the main Mulago National Referral Hospital.

Dr Mwangi made the revelation to Kampala Lord Mayor Elias Lukwago and his delegation, who had visited the facility to check on the cholera patients.

He noted that the patients had shown improvement, adding that they have, however, decided to send them to the bigger facility with advanced services.

At the restricted cholera ward at Naguru, some of the patients were sleeping on the floor.

"While I was driving in Mengo to look for what to eat, I noticed a boda boda following me," he said. "At first, I thought the men on the boda were minding their business but I became suspicious after making a few turns and the same man followed them," he added.

The artiste added that he decided to enter someone's compound and hoot to chase them away but the hoot banged on the door, instructing him to move out of the car to which he refused. In the process, they hit the car glass, pulling him out and hitting him with a hummer on the head.

The 31-year-old first thought the thieves wanted his valuables including phones and money but when they started the car gathered strength to chase them while shouting and at this point they stopped the car, beat him until he became unconscious.

"I regained my senses after minutes and moved to the road. I called my manager who arrived after 15 minutes and took me to hospital where I got five stitches on the head," Evans added.

However, the news that he had been found excited the manager who *Daily Monitor* found at Hospital where he had received further treatment.

"I am very happy that he has been found. I thank the police for every concerned person, those on social media, who spoke on my behalf when they reported the news. Maybe it is that quality that forced the thieves to release the car," Evans said.

MUSICIANS HIT

Recent attacks. Mowzey Ra, a producer known as Mowzey Ra, has been hit in similar circumstances.