

Residents accuse health workers of absenteeism

Lazy. The residents claim that even when they are present, they work at their own will and pace.

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BUDAKA. Local leaders and residents in Budaka District have accused health workers of absenteeism and late coming.

During community meeting at Kamonkoli Trading Centre on Monday, the residents said health workers at lower health units are "habitual absentees".

"They are always absent from their work stations and when you find them there, they work at their own will and pace, leaving patients frustrated and stranded," Ms Madina Samanya, the woman councillor for Kamonkoli parish, said.

Ms Samanya said district leaders should intervene

“ The health workers, if they turn up at the facility, leave before sunset and on weekends, it's only by luck that you find any of them at the facility.”

MADINA SAMANYA, WOMAN
COUNCILLOR FOR KAMONKOLI
PARISH

and come up with stringent measures to fight the vice in health centres, saying it's affecting service delivery.

Mr John Kirya, another resident said due to rampant absenteeism among health workers, especially at Kamonkoli Health Centre III, they have been forced to seek treatment in the private clinics, which are expensive.

He said they have complained for long through their community leaders but their complaints have not yielded any positive results.

The Kamonkoli Sub-county chairperson, Mr Bernard Mugoda, acknowledged the challenge, saying they have written to the district to transfer the implicated health workers.

Mr Cornelius Mbulalina, the officer-in-charge of Kamonkoli Health Centre III, told *Daily Monitor* in a separate interview that the community allegation might be true.

"I have just been transferred here but many local leaders and patients have told me about this challenge, which I haven't properly established," he said, adding that he will find a solution.

The Budaka District health officer, Ms Winifred Mutaki, could not be reached for a comment, but the acting district health officer, Mr Moses Mwiggo Kabangi, said to address such challenges, they have effected some transfers for efficiency.