



Nakyobe (second-right) hands over an ambulance to Dr Kakeeto amidst cheers from district leaders and some of the hospital staff during a ceremony at the hospital in Semuto on Tuesday

Museveni donates ambulance to Semuto

By Vision Reporter

President Yoweri Museveni has warned health workers against soliciting for fuel for ambulances from patients. He also directed that districts and health facilities must include regular budgets for fuel and maintenance of vehicles to ensure dedicated service. Semuto is one of the key areas where the liberation struggle was fought.

"Districts must allot fuel for the ambulance and health centres must also budget for fuel. It is not right to ask patients for fuel because it defeats the purpose of my intentions," he said.

The State House Comptroller, Lucy Nakyobe Mbonye, delivered the President's message shortly after she delivered the President's pledge of an ambulance to Semuto Health Centre IV in Semuto, Nakaseke district. Gen. Proscovia Nalweyiso, the senior presidential advisor on defence and security matters, accompanied Nakyobe.

"I want to commend the health workers here for their dedication and urge you to continue working hard. I want to apologise for the delay in fulfilling the pledge. There are many pledges and other priorities from around the country, yet my budget allocation is still the same. However, we shall be fulfilling them as and when we get the funding," Museveni said,

FULFILLED PLEDGE

Dr Kakeeto hailed President

Museveni for fulfilling his pledge of the ambulance

in a message delivered by Nakyobe.

He called on the community to always be vigilant in monitoring their health and not wait until the situation gets serious. He urged the health workers to always sensitise the people and encourage them to exploit the Government's immunisation programmes.

"For Uganda to have a healthy and productive population, as well as reduction in health expenditure, more emphasis needs to be put on disease prevention. Many people suffer and die from preventable diseases. Pregnant mothers should do regular tests and should not wait until it is too late to visit a health facility. The vehicle is only for transport, but will not necessarily ensure your health. It is for the extreme cases that need urgent attention," he said.

Nakyobe later toured the health centre accompanied by Gen. Nalweyiso and the

health centre boss, Dr Richard Bernard Kakeeto. Gen. Nalweyiso urged the health officials not to misuse the ambulance.

"The blood bank that has been an issue will also be delivered under the pledge next week," she said. Dr Kakeeto hailed President Museveni for fulfilling his pledge and said the ambulance would go along way in easing service delivery.

"We handle about 125 patients daily as outpatients," he said. He commended the Government for the regular medical supplies and urged health workers to always keep time. During the tour, it was reported that Nakaseke district used a contractor who was paid up to sh400m for the construction of an operating theater, but the work was shoddy and the building remains unused four years later. The health centre had procured assorted equipment for the theatre, but it could not be installed because the floor, ventilation and drainage were left undone.

According to the health ministry, in financial year 2017/2018, a total of sh512b was appropriated to local governments for the delivery of primary healthcare services. The funds comprise district primary healthcare (PHC) wages of sh291.4b, PHC non-wage of sh39.92b, PHC development of sh11.9b and medicines budget of sh168.3b.