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Monitor story saves Busolwe hospital

KAMPALA. Residents and patients at Busolwe Hospital last week breathed a sigh of relief when Betway-Uganda, a betting company donated mattresses to the facility in Butaleja District.

Ms Jane Nabwire, one of the patients, said the mattresses will help to address the appalling conditions at the hospital.

"We have been going through a lot of pain whenever we are admitted. There are no beddings and mattresses, and the few available ones are rotten. It has been a sad experience. We hope it will change," Ms Nabwire, said.

Ms Lydia Nambozo, a resident, said she was happy with the donation because last year when she went to the hospital to deliver, she was offered space on the floor.

"I delivered on the floor and since that day, I stopped going for treatment at the hospital because it was more of death trap than a health centre," she says.

Ms Amina Nahirya, another resident, said although the hospital has received mattresses more needs to be done by government.

"When you go to that hospital with one disease, you come back when you have contracted many more diseases due to poor hygiene," Ms Nahirya said.

While handing over the donation Ms Adellah Agaba, the country manager of Betway-Uganda, said it is sad for such a big hospital to be left to rot away. "We learnt patients were sleeping on the floor. We got concerned and decided to intervene by donating 20 mattresses to the facility," she said.

She added: "Initially, we thought the hospital had only problem of beddings but to our surprise, it does not have water to ensure better sanitation and hygiene of the patients."

The donation follows the stories published in *Daily Monitor* about the poor state of the hospital, which was

constructed in 1970.

The hospital, which serves a population of more than 40,000 patients from various districts neighbouring Butaleja, also lacks a proper sewage system, has a non-functional oxygen cylinder, lacks an X-ray machine besides having dilapidated structures.

No government intervention

The Busolwe Hospital senior administrator, Ms Sylvia Kezaabu, said the government has been promising to intervene but in vain.

"We thank *Daily Monitor* for the great effort to expose the plight of the hospital, which has attracted public attention and support," she said.

Ms Kezaabu, however, revealed that the hospital also lacks gloves which has prompted nurses to use bare hands to administer treatment.

Earlier this year, the residents launched a Shs12m fundraising drive to buy delivery beds and mattresses.

Under their umbrella association Nanghirisa Development Association, the residents say they have partnered with other group to solicit funds from residents and well-wishers to re-equip the hospital.

By last Thursday, the residents had collected Shs3.7m in cash and Shs5.2m pledges.

The team leader, Mr Batala Cyprian, told *Daily Monitor*: "We found out that the incubators are not functioning and beds in maternity ward are very old."

Other donations

However, the district chief administrative officer, Mr Moses Echat, said the hospital would soon be refurbished with the Shs24b funding from Uganda-Spanish Debt swap.

Last month, the district Woman MP, Ms Milly Mugeni, donated some mattresses to the hospital and Budumba Health Centre III respectively.