

MPs call for increased health budget

MBARARA

By Abdulkarim Ssendendo

Women MPs from the southwestern region have urged the Government and health ministry to increase the budget allocation for the purchase of sexual reproductive health supplies.

The MPs said this would increase affordability and availability of reproductive medical supplies to all persons in the reproductive age group.

They asked the ministry to put in place measures to avoid delayed financial disbursements that contribute to stock-outs of drugs and other medical supplies.

The Women MPs from

Mbarara, Kabale, Kibale, Isingiro and Kisoro, made the appeal during the belated International Women's Day celebration in Mbarara district last week.

The event, which was organised by the Mbarara District Woman MP, Rosette Mutambi, with support from HEPS-Uganda, took place at Nyabikungu playground in Rugando sub-county, Mbarara district.

Robinah Nabbanja, a commissioner of Parliament, was the chief guest at the function.

She asked the health ministry to devise means of making medicine and other medical supplies affordable in the private sector.

The MPs also asked the

Nabbanja inspecting a parade during the belated International Women's Day in Mbarara district.

Photo by Abdulkarim Ssendendo



ministry to strengthen its community health worker strategy, especially given their

role in providing community education, which might have a big impact on the health-

seeking behaviour of Ugandans. They said reproductive health education should also

be extended to men because as heads of households, they determine whether a woman will use the services or not.

A survey conducted by HEPS-Uganda in 2017 in 124 public, private and mission hospitals in both urban and rural areas discovered that 81% of their clients were reluctant to seek sexual reproductive health services. They said comprehensive education on sexual reproductive health in the community would tackle the challenge and reduce stigmatisation as well as improve general knowledge.

The Rwampara County MP, Charles Ngabirano, called for support for the education of girls and expressed concern over teenage pregnancies.