

Don't mistreat patients, Janet warns medics



Health. Students of Masaka School of Comprehensive Nursing demonstrate to Education minister Janet Museveni (2nd left) how to handle a patient on Monday. PHOTO BY MALIK FAHAD JJINGO

Appeal. Nursing school principal calls for more funding to health training institutions

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MASAKA. The Minister of Education, Ms Janet Museveni, has warned health workers against mistreating patients.

She said government has received several reports that health workers mistreat patients.

Ms Museveni made the remarks at Masaka School of Comprehensive Nursing on Tuesday.

"Medics are rude, they do not care about patients, expectant mothers. Even when they are called for help, they continue doing their own things," she said.

The First Lady's visits to tertiary institutions are aimed at checking the progress of Skilling Uganda programme in various technical, business and vocational institutions across the country.

Ms Museveni said students demonstrated excellent skills in laboratories at various nursing schools she has so far visited and wondered why the nurses are not doing the same at their work places.

"While at Jinja School of Nursing and Midwifery last week, the demonstration they exhibited was also good and this gave me a good impression that the students would transfer such skills to their work places," she said.

She, however, added that this is far different from the reports she gets regarding the kind of treatment patients get from health workers.

She appealed to the nursing students to understand that the skills they attain from tertiary institutions should not

go to waste, but be utilised in the health centres where they are posted.

Mr Mark Kalanzi, the school principal, said the institution is challenged by understaffing yet the number of students continues to grow.

He revealed that the school has only 12 tutors teaching more than 300 students.

He said only eight tutors are on government payroll.

Mr Kalanzi, who is also the chairman of the Association of Principals of Health Training Institutions in Uganda, raised concern over meagre funds allocated to vocational institutions as opposed to universities.

"Take the example of feeding allowance for university students, it is around Shs4,000 per student, but health training students are allocated Shs2,900 each. Government has revised salaries for university lecturers, sidelining our staff, which makes staff retention hard," Mr Kalanzi said.

OTHER ISSUES

Refreshers courses: Ms Safina Kisu Musene, the commissioner of Business Technical Vocational Education and Training, said government is considering taking serving health workers for refresher courses to remind them of the best practices on how to handle patients.

Health centre IIs: Mr Jude Mbabaali, the Masaka District chairperson, appealed to the minister to ask President Museveni to drop the idea of phasing out health centre IIs, saying this will worsen health service delivery at parish level.

Prisons chief intervenes

BY ALEX TUMUHIMBSIE
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KAKUMIRO. The Commissioner General of Uganda Prisons Service, Mr Johnson Byabashaija, has launched investigations into the alleged torture of inmates at Kyabisenge Prison in Kakumiro District.

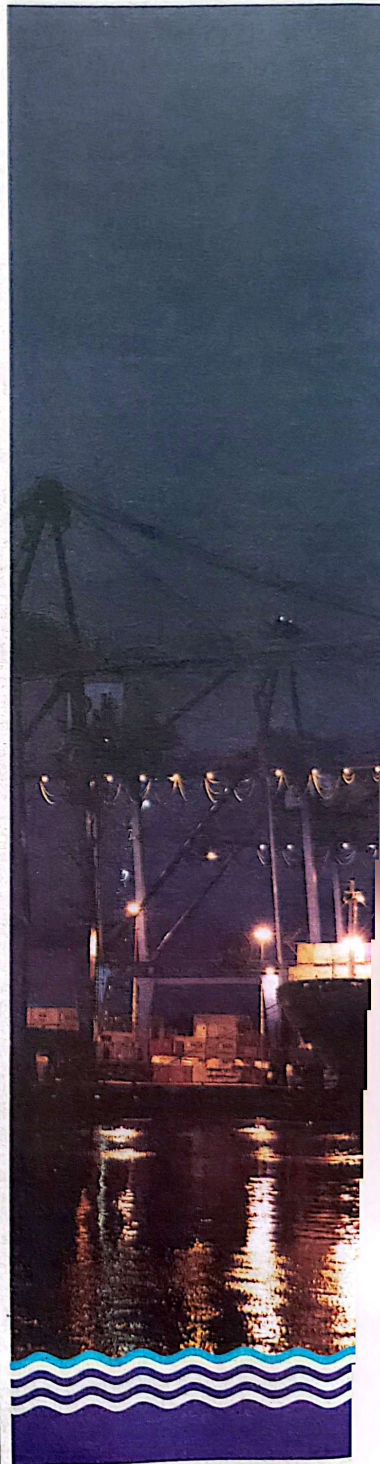
Accompanied by several high ranking prisons officers, Mr Byabashaija on Tuesday

visited the prison, where he reportedly claimed that some prisoners and led of others.

Forced leave

He held a meeting with the prisoners and the district administrator.

Speaking to *The Nation*, Mr Byabashaija said the officer-in-charge of Kyabisenge Prison



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