

group structures
can produce competent candi-

In the race. FDC party president Mugisha Muntu addresses a campaign rally in western Uganda recently. FILE PHOTO.

house campaigns because we cannot access some of the radios here. We want you to bring the party on the ground," Mr Bhirayo said.

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Gulu hospital struggling to accommodate staff

GULU. Gulu Regional Referral Hospital is currently struggling to provide accommodation to its staff, *Daily Monitor* has learnt.

The hospital employs 285 staff, including doctors, midwives, nurses, administrators and support staff.

But according to reports from top officials at the facility, only about 30 members of staff are being accommodated at the hospital's now dilapidated staff quarters.

The officials say the rest of the staff reside outside the facility; a situation they say is crippling service delivery to thousands of patients who visit the hospital daily.

Dr James Elima, the hospital administrator, told *Daily Monitor* in an interview recently that accommodation challenges are scaring away health experts.

He said the hospital is supposed to accommodate more than 80 per cent of its staff but this is not the case.

Dr Elima said adequate accom-



On duty. Health workers register patients at Gulu Regional Referral Hospital recently. The hospital accommodates only 30 staff out of the 285 people it employs. PHOTO BY RACHEL MABALA

250,000

**THE LEAST NUMBER OF
OUTPATIENTS AT THE
FACILITY PER YEAR,
ACCORDING TO STATISTICS
AT THE HOSPITAL.**

modation within the hospital would boost the moral of staff and improve on the time they report for duty.

The hospital recently embarked on construction of 54 housing units to accommodate staff. However, Dr Elima noted that the construction works are being hampered by poor funding.

He said annually, the facility receives Shs1.4b from the government for capital development; an amount he said is too little to have the construction project completed early.

Dr Elima stressed that the inadequate staff accommodation has

forced the hospital to stretch its budget to rent for some staff members.

He revealed that the facility has received 32 new staff, including a senior orthopedic surgeon and an anesthetist, all of whom they have to find accommodation for.

A nurse at the facility, who spoke to this newspaper on conditions of anonymity for fear of reprisal, said rent outside the hospital staff quarters is very expensive compared to what she earns.

She said on daily basis, she spends between Shs2,000 and Shs3,000 on

transport to her duty station daily. On top this, she has to part with more than Shs100,000 on rent per month.

"I am finding a lot of challenges due to lack of accommodation at the hospital. Sometimes I report late for work, especially when it rains in the morning," she said.

Besides accommodation challenges, the hospital also lacks medical consultants.

The facility, which is supposed to have at least 14 medical consultants, does not have one, according to the hospital authorities.