

...cases of  
...ment by head teachers are

...the children rioting and  
had surrounded Mr Okwaput's  
house while he was locked inside

...statement at police, she confessed  
to having been indulging [in love]  
with the head-teacher for the last  
one year," Mr Oriokot said.

One of the girl's relatives  
lamented: "We are hurt as relatives,  
and we pray justice is dispensed in  
this matter."

# Wash breasts before breastfeeding - minister

BY FRED WAMBEDE  
editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

**BUKEDA.** The Minister of Water and Environment has urged mothers in Bukedi and Teso sub-regions to wash breasts before breastfeeding to avoid exposing their babies to diseases and infections.

Mr Sam Cheptoris said mothers, especially in rural areas, have a habit of breastfeeding without washing their breasts or nipples.

"The mothers are frequenting hospitals that their children are suffering from diseases such as diarrhoea, fever and other infections, which can be avoided by ensuring a baby does not suckle dirty germs from breasts," Mr Cheptoris said at the launch of climate resilient institutional and public sanitation facilities at Bukedea District playgrounds on Tuesday.

He said a dirty breast harbours germs and when an infant suckles it, there are high chances of falling ill.

"Failure to maintain personal hygiene and sanitation in our communities is the main cause of suffering from diseases that disappeared from other countries long time ago," Mr Cheptoris said.

The minister also urged local governments to enact ordinances to punish families without pit-latrines or other sanitation facilities at home.

"The government can ensure that each village gets access to clean water but pit-latrines construction and personal hygiene is an individual's responsibility," he said.

He also appealed to community leaders to promote safe disposal of human waste to control outbreak of diseases such as cholera.

Mr Joseph Oriono Eyafu, the commissioner Rural Water and Sanitation Department, said availability of safe water and improved hygiene in homes will help to reduce the burden of water-related diseases.

"Lack of safe water and poor hygiene increase the burden of water-related diseases and the associated costs due to ill health," he said.

Mr Oriono said the establishment of the sanitation facilities in the two sub-regions will help to transform people's lives.

"The provision of safe water and sanitation facilities is a major driver of social economic development and



**Commitment.** Mothers breastfeed their babies at a health centre in Wakiso District recently. PHOTO BY JOSEPH KIGGLUNDU

is critical to rural transformation of the region," he said.

Mr Oriono said the \$2.2 million project, which is funded by the

African Development Bank, will cover Budaka, Butaleja, Bukedea, Soroti, and Kumi districts, among others.