

# Lira to get mental health rehabilitation hospital

LIRA

By Hudson Apunyo

Mental Health Rehabilitation (MHR) Uganda will by 2020 establish a compact rehabilitation hospital in Lira, the project director, Dr Francis Ekwun Uzu, has said.

Uzu, the principle occupational therapist at Mulago Hospital, said MHR Uganda, in collaboration with Lango Cultural Foundation and Lira University, has championed an innovative approach to culture and health in order to address the

growing burden of mental health disorder, heart diseases, neurological disorders and many other chronic diseases.

He made the remarks recently during a cultural gala dubbed, 'Culture for Health' at Lira Hotel, where several traditional groups dancers showcased their dances.

Uzu said the goal of the project is to restore the glory of the Lango culture, work for better health and unity by 2018 and establish a sustainable approach to improve healthcare through establishing the hospital by 2020.

"Partners, policy-makers and

implementers will be more involved in the processes to increase access to research and information, training and healthcare services that can save and transform lives in the community."

The chief guest, Helen Asamo, the MP for people with disabilities (eastern), said anybody with a mental challenge and survives on drugs is like any other member of society and should not be taken as useless.

All the groups that performed *okeme*, *okoce* and *abuda* dances, were given certificates of participation and cash prizes.