

...among themselves this option" and report back to government.

...group are "indeed in favour of cash" but added that "we think that if this

Gayaza. "So consider at most Shs50m for price of land in those areas and

Memorandum government

Officials fail to account for nodding disease funds

BY EMMANUEL AINEBYOONA
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KAMPALA. The Health minister, Dr Jane Aceng, has said government officials in districts affected by Nodding Syndrome have failed to account for more than Shs237m meant to fight the disease.

Dr Aceng, who was responding to the revelations made by an *NTV* investigation last month, said government interventions had faced accountability challenges caused by the local officials, mainly chief administrative officers (CAOs).

"To date Shs1.6 billion has been utilised, however, accountability for the funds has been poor with more than Shs237m unaccounted for. Kitgum District is the biggest defaulter with more than Shs109m unaccounted for, followed by Lamwo District," she said.

An *NTV* Investigative feature dubbed Panaroma revealed that children afflicted by the neurological disorder had been neglected by government in Kitgum, Pader and Omoro districts.

However, in a press briefing in Kampala yesterday, Dr Aceng said her ministry had made progress in

fulfilling its mandate as far as the disease response is concerned.

"In 2012, Ministry of Health activated three treatment centres in Kitgum, Lamwo and Pader. The number of health facilities was further increased to seven in 2013, covering Gulu, Lira, Amuru and Oyam when Nodding Syndrome cases were identified in these districts following surveillance," Dr Aceng said.

Shs237m

Unaccounted for. The amount of money that government officials have failed to account for.

She said no new case of Nodding Syndrome has been reported since commencement of interventions against disease in 2012 after the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee coordinated by the Office of the Prime Minister under the department of Relief and Disaster Preparedness.

Despite the lack of accountability, Dr Aceng said her ministry has been sending funds to the districts for the disease

"Shs130m was approved this financial Year 2017/18 for management of Nodding Syndrome. Shs73m has already been processed for transfer to the beneficiary districts and facilities," she said, adding that CAOs have to account for the funds.

Dr Bernard Opar, the Nodding Syndrome focal person in the Health ministry, said a financial audit in the affected districts was underway to understand why some local governments have failed to produce accountability for financial year 2015/16 up-today.

The minister accused the *NTV* journalist of bias, indicating the reporter only visited 5 per cent of the patients whose condition has progressed into a brain damage but failed to highlight the achievements.

She said some sections of the media have been confusing Nodding Syndrome with other conditions such as epilepsy and febrile illnesses.

Dr Aceng further said government had conducted 14 research studies on Nodding Syndrome with one suggesting that

Court convicts Adjumani s...

KAMPALA. The r... in Adjumani Distri... by the Anti-Corruption office when he dro... suspects in court wi... Director of Public P...

Mr Francis Ocuga... office, was convicted... Inspector General c... his acquittal.

Trial judge Marg... convicted Ocuga for... an office attendant... files.

The lower court... One Magistrate Fre... acquitted Ocuga of... Justice Tibulya sent... Shs500,000 on each... imprisoned for six... counts of abuse of c...

In total, the state... to pay Shs1.5m in fir... months in jail. He p... free. While overtur... tal by the lower cou... that...