

Kiboga Hospital chokes on sh100m electricity bill

KIBOGA

By Francis Emorut

The Kiboga district health officer, Dr Michael Musitwa, has expressed concern that the power supply to Kiboga Hospital could be disconnected anytime due to an accumulated electricity bill.

"We have been getting warnings from Umeme over the accumulated bills. The facility may get disconnected anytime and this will put our work in jeopardy," Musitwa said.

He said the lives of the patients would be under threat, especially those meant to undergo major surgery.

Dr Musitwa explained that the bill has never been paid since 2005.

He appealed to the finance ministry to increase the resource envelope for the health sector.

According to the National Budget Framework Paper for the next financial year, the health ministry has been allocated sh1.6 trillion, while last financial year, it received sh1.8 trillion.

During the dialogue that was held at Kiboga district headquarters on Friday, residents of the area complained about the shortage of drugs, poor customer care by health workers and the deplorable condition in the hospital.

The dialogue was organised by



Emmanuel Kaleekezzi addressing participants during public dialogue at the district headquarters. Photo by Francis Emorut

Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA). It was aimed at improving service delivery in the health and agriculture sectors.

"There is need to increase local budget allocations to the health sector for both referral hospitals and health centres," Veronica Namwanje, the executive director of USSIA, told participants who included district leaders, market vendors and members of Kiboga Bodaboda Association.

The association has held public dialogues in Mukono, Mityana and Kiboga districts. The dialogue aimed at drawing the attention

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of local government leaders to address gaps in the health sector and government programmes, such as the Youth Livelihood programme and Women Fund.

"Whenever I go to the hospital

for treatment, health workers say there are no drugs and yet we pay taxes," Emmanuel Kaleekezzi, the chairman of Kiboga Bodaboda Association, said.

Fatuma Bagabinga, a senior nursing officer, said the hospital administration is constrained because of the small resource envelope they receive.

She added that the hospital treats over 130 patients in a day.

The technical advisor of USSIA, Jeff Wedulo, urged the residents to hold the district leaders accountable, so as to enhance service delivery.