

# Mbale's health sector makes strides

**Growth.** The combination of public and private health facilities has helped the municipality provide better health care services to its people.

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Mbale Town has registered tremendous trends in the health and sanitation sector in the last five years, the head of public health in Mbale Municipality, Dr Muse Odong, says.

According to Dr Odong, the municipality has managed to establish new health centres and equipped them with beds, theatre machines and essential drugs.

"There is now improved service delivery in our health facilities," he says, adding that they have attained more than 95 per cent staff attendance in respective health units.

Dr Odong says government has allocated reasonable funds to the municipality to ensure that its citizens access good health care.

"Government has done a good job in facilitating the health department, that why we have new structures and medicine in place for our patients," he says.

Dr Odong says Mbale Municipality has five public health facilities,



Officials say government has allocated reasonable funds to the municipality to ensure that its citizens access good health care. NET PHOTO

which include three health centres IVs and two health centre IIs, which serve all people within the municipality and from the outskirts.

He adds there are a number of other health institutions in the municipality, which include Mbale Regional Hospital, the largest and

serving as a referral hospital for the eastern region.

Other health institutions include Cure Hospital for specialised orthopaedic services, Ahamadiya Hospital, Mt Elgon Hospital, private clinics, first aid posts, and drug shops.

"All these are fairly distributed.

They provide affordable health services to the people," he notes.

He, however, notes that the National Drug Authority needs to increase drug volumes delivered to the hospitals in Mbale municipality due to high patient population.

"The population is very high

compared to the drugs being delivered to the health facilities in the municipality," he says.

He explains that rising population in Mbale Town has led to shortage of drugs in health facilities.

He says cases of health workers stealing and selling drugs have also been curtailed through tight supervision of the health facilities and health workers.

## Assessment

Mr Peter Ocen, the regional health supervisor working the Allied Health Professionals Council, says Mbale Town has experienced better service delivery due to heavy private investment in the sector.

"There are so many private clinics and drug shops, which are offering medical services to the population," Mr Ocen says.

"We have got rid of private clinics that are managed by unqualified persons. This is a silent issue that was leading to loss of lives of unsuspecting patients in Mbale Town, which we are trying to eliminate," he adds.

The district health supervisor, Mr Ayub Madoi, says as a district health team, they have done enough sensitisation, supervision and monitoring in the health sector in the district and municipality, in particular.

