

Luwero to get sh1.3b health facility

By Frederick Kiwanuka

The Speaker of Parliament, Rebecca Kadaga, has commissioned construction of a sh1.3b health facility complex that will serve the three districts of Luwero, Nakaseke and Nakasongola.

The four-storey facility, whose plan was unveiled in Wobulenzi town, Luwero district over the weekend, will offer a comprehensive reproductive health package to the region. It has been implemented by Rural Health Uganda (RHU), a reproductive health and rights organisation.

It will comprise an outpatient department, a maternity centre and a labour ward.

It will also have a theatre, wards, an intensive care unit, consultation rooms and a youth learning centre.

The RHU chief executive director, Jackson Chekwoko, said the facility will save the people of Luwero, Nakaseke and Nakasongola the burden of travelling long distances to seek health services. She said this during the function which had a mega fundraising for the new complex.

Chekwoko said the RHU head office in Kampala would contribute sh100m towards the project.

BETWEEN THE LINES:

Kadaga said the facility will help sensitise the community against early marriages, unsafe abortions and teenage pregnancies.

Before, the services had been available at Nakaseke and Kiwoko referral hospitals, both located in Nakaseke district, forcing residents to travel long distances.

Rosemary Seninde, the state minister for primary education, who is also the national chairperson of Reproductive Health Uganda, said the initiative to construct the complex was taken by RHU Luwero branch.

She said the one-acre piece of land on which the complex is to stand, was donated by Wobulenzi town council.

Kadaga, who is also the patron of RHU, hailed RHU Luwero branch for initiating the project. She said it would help to sensitise the community against early marriages, unsafe abortions and teenage pregnancies.

The Speaker said there were many cases of early marriages.

"We have people who pretend to be married at the age of 10-17 years.

"You find a small husband and a small wife and you wonder if the community is aware," Kadaga said.

Over sh120m was raised in cash and pledges, with Kadaga contributing sh3m. Area MP Edward Sembatya contributed sh1.5m.