

27 illegal clinics closed in Wakiso

BY NOELINE NABUKENYA

WAKISO. Authorities have raised an alarm over the use of fake licenses and unqualified health workers after closing 27 health facilities in the ongoing crackdown in Wakiso District. The operation which has run for the last two months, targets health facilities operating illegally and staff working outside their professional scope.

Mr Michael Kayizzi, the Quality Assurance Manager at the Allied Health Professionals' Council of Uganda, said the exercise had exposed widespread malpractice. "It is my duty to ensure that all people practicing medicine are qualified, licensed and working in licensed health facilities and are working within their scope of license," he said on Tuesday.

The health facilities closed include; Mercy Medical Centre, St Jesus Medical Clinic, Top Clinic, Wangu Medical Centre, and Oasis Medical Centre in Wakiso Town Council.

At St Jesus Medical Clinic, authorities found a health worker operating in unsanitary conditions, including a bucket of urine, dusty beds and poorly managed waste. The facility was immediately shut pending rectification of the mistakes. "I have just retired from public service and figuring out what to do. This is a friend's clinic and I am only helping them," said Rajab Kiguli, who was found at the premises before they were sealed off.

At Costa Medical Centre, all health workers were found operating without valid licenses while the registered owner was absent. "You are operating illegally. First get a license before you can resume work," said Mr Christopher Bingi, the council's regional supervisor for Kampala Metropolitan.

At Top Clinic, authorities found an expired license dating back to 2023 while at Wangu Medical Centre, a midwife was caught secretly attending to a patient despite earlier closure orders.

"This facility doesn't meet the required standards. Your life is in danger," Mr Kayizzi told a patient, who was removed from a drip and advised to seek care elsewhere. Officials said the facility had been operating on a forged license and lacked proper patients' records.

At Oasis Medical Centre in Kisimbiri, the staff member on duty had no gloves and could not present academic qualifications when asked. Ms Rachel Namboozo, a health inspector in Wakiso District, said many health facility owners fail to supervise operations, instead hiring unqualified staff or leaving trainees unsupervised.

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