

Background. Set up in the 1970s, the facility handles patients from Butaleja, Tororo, Namutumba, Busia and Budaka districts.

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Butaleja's main hospital run without mattresses, water

BUTALEJA. For the past 10 years, Busolwe Hospital in Butaleja District has suffered neglect and is grappling with numerous challenges, including lack of water and beds.

The hospital, which was constructed in 1970 during the regime of the former president Apollo Milton Obote, has had a dysfunctional water system and dilapidated structures for years without repair. The facility handles patients from Butaleja, Tororo, Namutumba, Busia and Budaka districts.

The medical superintendent, Dr David Okanya, says the hospital operating without running water and modern equipment has tremendously affected service delivery.

"For now we are not doing well. We have a number of challenges, including lack of running water, equipment and drugs," he says.

Dr Okanya adds that the hospital is in bad state and that the drainage system is dysfunctional.

"The drainage system has failed to work. We have tried to repair but in vain. It is now beyond us and we request for higher offices to handle," he says.

A nurse at the hospital, who prefers anonymity because she does not speak for the hospital, says there is also poor waste disposal management something that exposes patients and the residents around the hospital to serious health risks.

The nurse adds that delivery of health services at the hospital has also been hampered by equipment which is in a sorry state, including theatre machines.

EE "The problems facing this hospital are too many ranging from rotten beds, mattresses and the polluted environment, which is unbearable, especially in children and maternity wards," NURSE AT THE HOSPITAL

"The problems facing this hospital are too many ranging from rotten beds, mattresses and the polluted environment, which is unbearable, especially in children and maternity wards," the nurse says.

The district woman MP, Ms Milly Mugeni, says the situation in the facility is inhuman and urges government to intervene.

"Everything, including toilets, are no longer functional," she says, adding that its government to blame for the mess.

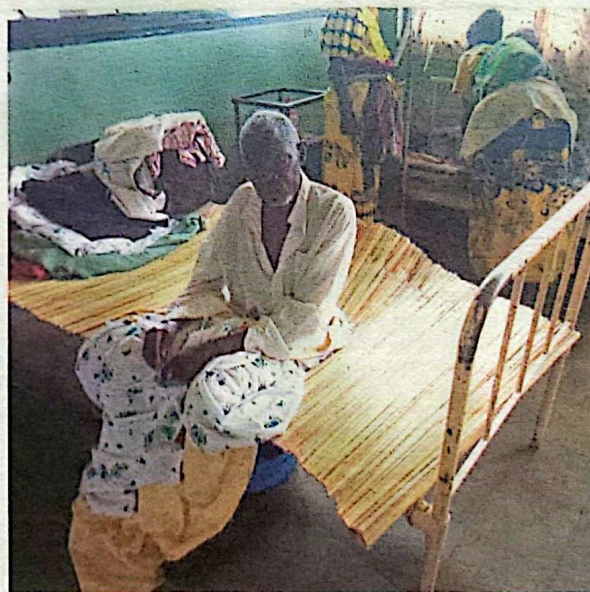
The legislator, who donated mattresses to the hospital and Budumba Health centre III, says there is a need for intervention to revamp the facility.

Ms Mugeni also urges the Ministry of Health to equip the hospital with the required medical equipment, beds and mattresses and drugs.

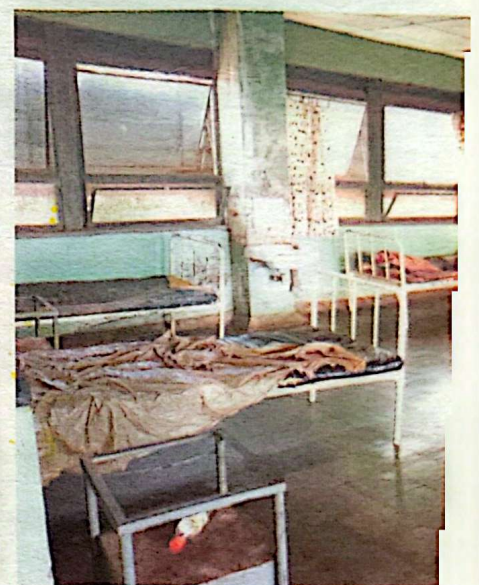
"We wonder why our hospital has never received any major renovation since it was constructed. Government must take this as an emergency and rehabilitate the facility," she says.



Derelict state. A patient, who is on drip, sleeps on a papyrus mat laid on a bed at Busolwe Hospital in Butaleja District last week. PHOTOS BY YAHUDU KITUNZI



Hopeless. A patient sits on a papyrus mat laid on the bed.



Dilapidated. Some of the old beds at the hospital.

The Chief Administrative Officer, Mr Alex Felix Majeme, acknowledges the dire state under which the hospital operates but says government will renovate the facility.

He says the hospital will soon be refurbished with funding from

Uganda-Spanish Debt Swap at Shs26 billion.

"People must appreciate that the hospital was built a long time ago and government is working to address the challenges," Mr Majeme says.

However, he says the hospital

management should address the problem of poor hygiene surrounding the facility instead of complaining.

"We give that hospital money to cater for cleaning but we wonder why the facility is operating in a dirty environment," he says, adding

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