

LAWMAKERS, who should ring-fence funds for procuring specialised drugs for mental health care.

Tomorrow, read about drug abuse in the country and how to manage a mentally-ill patient

Butabika creates new unit for UPDF soldiers

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KAMPALA. Soldiers who open fire at public places to randomly kill people are those suffering from depression, post-war trauma and stress, the UPDF chief of medical services has said.

Speaking at the 4th graduation ceremony for 52 company medics at Gadaffi Barracks in Jinja, Brig Ambrose Musinguzi, a medical officer, said "mental health is a challenge especially when officers get post-war traumatic stress disorder".

"We realise that homicide cases are on the rise because of depression and stress, especially when they (soldiers) lose a colleague in a battle," he said.

There have lately been increasing cases of soldiers shooting at civilians or colleagues in public places in disputes over mainly money and women.

Brig Musinguzi's observation comes at a time when officials at Butabika, the national psychiatric hospital, have opened a special 10-bed unit to handle the growing number of soldiers brought in mentally ill.

The hospital between July 2014 and June 2015 treated

RAMPAGE KILLINGS BY SOLDIERS

June 19, 2016: Sgt Isaac Obua shoots eight dead at Makidye Military Barracks in Kampala.

June, 21, 2016: Cpl Fred Kugonza kills sister-in-law in Kigumba trading centre, accusing her of causing collapse of his marriage.

January 14, 2014: Pte Andrew Sikhanga, attached to Arengekeju Detach, shoots a civilian dead in Moroto District.

March, 9, 2013: Pte. Patrick Okot Odoch guns 10 people, five of them soldiers, and injures two others in a bar in Bombo military barracks.

December, 2013: Patrick Odong kills three revellers in a pub in Kiwanawataka, Kampala.

December 10, 2012: L/Cpl Herbert Rwakihembo kills

three people and injured one in Kisenyi Zone III, Luzira in Nakawa Division; after his wife allegedly cheated on him.

May 1, 2009: Pte Nicholas Mucunguzi of Presidential Guard Bridge, renamed Special Forces Command, kills eight people at Top Pub in the city after a sex worker allegedly stole his money and phone.

September 28, 2006: Pte Andrew Wanyama, attached to the 409 brigade in Arua, fired into a crowd at Paradise night club in Arua, killing three people and injuring four others.

October 15, 2006: Bono-Lino Africano, shoots seven people dead, including his wife, child and father-in-law at Laguti IDP camp in Pader District.

some 73 UPDF soldiers as out-patients.

Twenty-eight of these were treated in December 2014 and 22 and an additional 23 in January 2015 and June 2015, respectively.

"Working with the UPDF, we created a unit in the forensic (Kirinya) Ward for mentally-ill members (soldiers), but the ward also holds those

patients who have committed crimes and are on remand," said Dr David Basangwa, the executive director of Butabika Hospital.

Most soldiers booked there are those fresh from the battle front in Somalia where Uganda has the largest contingent under the African Union Peace-keeping Mission or AMISOM battling