

8,000 doses of malaria drugs stolen in Katakwi

Resolution. The Ongongoja Sub-county council has resolved that the health staff and committee be changed and private clinics that have been conduits closed.

BY SIMON PETER EMWAMU
& JOSHUA IMALINGAT
editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

KATAKWI. The Ongongoja Sub-county council in Katakwi District has petitioned the district health officer to transfer staff and disband the health committee at Aketta Health Centre III after 8,000 doses of coartem and artesunate malaria drugs were reported stolen in the last two months.

The Ongongoja LC3 chairperson, Mr William Omeke, yesterday said the stolen drugs comprised 4,000 doses of coartem for children and another 4,000 doses for adults. He said artesunate, an anti-malaria injectable, drug were also stolen.

"We can't allow the staff and health unit committee to remain at this health centre. Our prayer to the district is to have these people transferred and a new committee established to sanitise the situation," he said. Mr Omeke said the



Stolen. Health officials dispense drugs at a health centre recently. A total of 8,000 doses of coartem and artesunate malaria drugs were stolen from Aketta Health Centre III in Katakwi District. PHOTO BY RACHEL MABALA

drugs were stolen between July and August 2017 and a one Moses Opio, the officer in-charge of the health centre, has since been arrested and charged in court.

He said the Ongongoja Sub-county council resolved that the health staff and health committee should be changed and the private clinics that have been conduits for the drugs closed.

"This is a referral health centre for the entire sub-county and serving more than 18,000 people and such an injustice by a few health workers will not be tolerated," he said. Ms Mary Ajenga, the fe-

male councillor for Aketta parish in Ongongoja Sub-county, said the theft of drugs has been on-going for long.

"When a sub-county audit was done, the drugs were confirmed to have been stolen in two months," she said.

Mr James Peter Arubuk, the councillor for Obwobo parish, said the health committee could have known how such medicines went missing and should be fired.

Repeated efforts to seek a comment on the missing drugs from Mr Simon Omeke, the Katakwi District health officer, went unanswered.



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