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tree species," he
More funding
Mugisa also revealed that government has increased their budget by sh4b for tree planting this financial year.

time.
NFA is mandated to manage 506 central forest reserves with a total area of 1,265,742 hectares and management of various protected areas.

Health centre stuck with ARVs

By Priscillar Nyamahunge

MASINDI

Kigezi health centre II in Mirya sub-county, Masindi district, has been stuck with Anti Retro-Viral drugs (ARVs) for over six months.

The health centre, which is located about 15km from Masindi town, was accredited early this year to start administering ARV services by the Ministry of Health so as to reduce on the distance patients have to access similar services.

However, the drugs, which were distributed by the National Medical Stores in February, have never been distributed to clients.

BETWEEN THE LINES

■ Although the health centre was stocked with ARVs, the medical staff were not equipped with skills to use in distributing the drugs.

Speaking during an engagement meeting organised by the Masindi district network forum of people living with HIV at the health centre on Friday, Job Masereka, the facility's in-charge, said the health workers there were yet to receive training in administering ARVs.

"We were told that we would be trained on how to administer the new service which was being brought on board. However, more than six months have passed and we are just watching the drugs in

store," Masereka said.

He added that the aim of helping people reduce on travelling long distances as they seek for ARV services had not been achieved since clients were not even aware of the availability of the drugs at the health facility.

Training on next month

Dr Allan Simwogerere, the field office co-ordinator of Infectious Disease Institute which offers some outreach programmes in health centres such as skilling health workers, said Kigezi health workers would be given an outreach training next month.

"Apparently, we are making use of health workers who have been conducting the same services in other facilities to help pass on the knowledge to those in newly accredited centres," Simwogerere said.

Dr John Turyagaruka, the district health officer, said they are advocating for other health centres to be accredited such that services can be taken nearer to the people.

"There are those people who miss out on receiving the drugs because the facilities are far. Most of them take advantage of not being sickly and decide to forego taking the drugs. We do not want such cases to continue," Turyagaruka said.

He suggested that the drugs at Kigezi be given away to health centres which are actively distributing to clients and might be in dire need of more stocks at the moment. A combination of daily ARVs enables people with HIV live longer.



Suspect held

■ The former chairperson of Umoja wa Kakira Association, William Mugisha, has been arrested for allegedly misusing money from the group. Mugisha was arrested from his late father's home in Polota village, Kakira town council in Jinja district, where he was hiding on Friday. According to Abdul Samadu, the current chairperson of the association, Mugisha failed to account for sh13m that was paid by ICEA General Insurance group to the association as compensation after the association's tractor was involved in an accident.

IGP appeals

■ The Inspector General of Police, Gen. Kale Kayihura, has asked local leaders to help him clean the force. Kayihura said as he tries to clean up the Police, he needs support from local leaders, who are closer to Police stations, posts and communities. "Instead of always saying that the Police is corrupt, you should get them. Use your constitutional authority as long as you do it lawfully," he said during a meeting of the Uganda Local Government Association in Mubende.