

numerous posts would overstretch

be lined out in the country so that each parish is able to get at least one

infrastructure.

ing insecure areas using motorcycles and foot patrols.

Background. Located on the slopes of Mount Rwenzori, the sub-county is hard-to-reach, with the nearest health centre about 20kms away.

MISAIRI THEMBO KAHUNGU
mkthembo@ug.nationmedia.com

For many years, residents of Bwesumbu Sub-county in Kasese District have been walking long distances to access medical services.

Bwesumbu is a hard-to-reach area with a hilly terrain on the slopes of Mount Rwenzori. In Bughendero and Ibunda villages, the residents have often needed a stretcher to transport patient or a woman in labour to Rwesande Health Centre IV, about 20kms away.

The residents say in most cases, mothers have given birth on the way to the health facility or are assisted at their homes by traditional birth attendants (TBAs) because of lack of access to health centres.

"I have been assisting women in this village for more than 40 years because there is no health facility," says Ms Vanisa Murumba, a 60-year old TBA.

"I usually accompany those who develop complications to Rwesande (health centre IV), usually at night. Sometimes we fail to reach the hospital and it is my task to see that they have been delivered," she adds.

According to Ms Murumba, the situation becomes tougher during rainy seasons when they need to make a choice between carrying the mother in labour over the slippery slopes or helping her deliver at home.

Of course some have died in the process. Mr Isaya Kyana, 58, has witnessed more than five people die before reaching the hospital. He has also seen three women deliver on the way before reaching the health facility.

"Leaving home up there in the mountains, for patients of malaria, we carry them on the back to reach the road where a motorcycle can be used. For the pregnant women, we carry them on the mattresses and lift them to the nearby road," Mr Kyana says.

That is why on Thursday evening, residents of Buhuhira Sub-county erupted in jubilation when they received a newly constructed health centre II from their area Member of Parliament, Mr William Nzoghu.

The facility that has been handed over

MP gives sub-county first health facility



Giving back. Busongora North MP William Nzoghu (Right), Kasese Woman MP Winfred Kiiza and Kasese District chairman Geoffrey Sibendire (3rd Right) commission Bughendero Health Centre II in Kasese District last Thursday. PHOTO BY MISAIRI THEMBO KAHUNGU

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"As MPs, we are forced to intervene in the area of service delivery because our government has failed to reach everywhere. So, we thank our brother for this gesture and I appeal to the district to give first priority to staff hailing from this area because they will serve diligently."

WINNIE KIIZA, KASESE WOMAN MP AND LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION IN PARLIAMENT

to the district for management is located in Bughendero village, about 8kms from Rwesande Health Centre IV.

"I am not supposed to construct a health centre because it is not one of my functions as an MP but the area LC 3 chairperson (Justus Asaba) came to me, explaining how this area suffers with accessibility to medical services. I decided to spend more than Shs30m to build this (facility) and it is now the role of the district to ensure it is running," Mr Nzoghu said at the hand over.

The MP also procured a pick-up truck that will be used as an ambulance during referrals.

"As Hon Nzoghu has told you, we as MPs are forced to intervene in the area of service delivery because our government has failed to reach everywhere. So,

Shs30m

Cost. The amount spent by MP William Nzoghu to build the health centre II.

we thank our brother for this gesture and now my appeal is to the district to give first priority to staff hailing from this area because they will be able to serve diligently," said Kasese Woman MP Winnie Kiiza at the opening of the facility.

Ms Kiiza, who is also the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, donated five beds and mattresses to the new facility. She also donated two stretchers to each of the five parishes in the sub-county to ensure that patients are easily brought down from the mountains for treatment.