

A nurse pointing at the spot where they burn hospital waste in Kapelebyong Health Centre IV. Photos by Emmanuel Alomu

Kapelebyong Health Centre IV stuck with clinical waste

AMURIA

By Emmanuel Alomu

Kapelebyong Health Centre IV in Amuria district is struggling to operate without an incinerator.

Authorities at the health facility said they burn the waste in an open area near the unit, while the rest is transported to Amuria Health Centre IV which has an incinerator.

The distance between the two health centres is 45km.

Kapelebyong Health Centre IV serves a population of 3,616 people according to a Uganda Bureau of Statistics report.

According to the Government policy, every health centre IV, up to the hospital level, is expected to have an incinerator.

The health facility is also faced with the challenge of inadequate doctors and accommodation for staff, something which promotes staff absenteeism. It also lacks a children's ward and mobile phone network.

Dr. Joseph Etonu, the officer in charge of Kapelebyong Health Centre IV, said they are currently admitting children and adults in the same wards.

"We need the children's ward so that they have their own separate point of care, hence improving children's care service in the health unit," Etonu said.

Margaret Walakira, the acting Amuria district health officer, admitted that Kapelebyong has no paediatric ward.

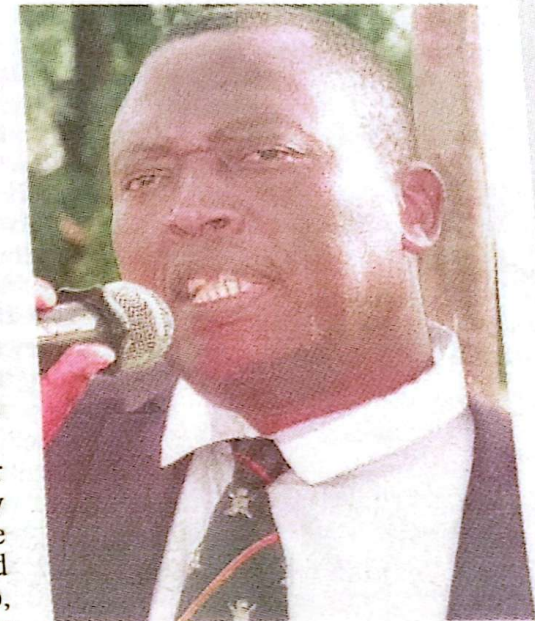
"We really need the paediatric ward because children need special care,"

she noted.

She said they need an incinerator because once the proposed Kapelebyong district comes into being during the next financial year, the health centre will become a hospital.

Robert Erisat Okitoi, the Amuria district chairperson, said there was a challenge of insecurity at Kapelebyong Health Centre IV and he promised to work together with the office of the resident district commissioner to find a solution to the challenge.

Dr. Charles Oloro, the director of clinical services in the Ministry of Health, said he had noted the concerns of lack of incinerators and children's wards. According to Oloro, the Government will follow up the matter.



Dr Charles Oloro

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