

...service through solar
renewable energy-powered mini-grids,

the Paloga LC3 chairperson, told the
Daily Monitor that: "Since 2022, there

plants have also been set up in Kitgum Town because welding we

Nurse training school grapples with acute staff shortage, says principal

BY CLEMENT ALUMA

ARUA. Arua School of Comprehensive Nursing and Midwifery, the only public training institution for nurses in West Nile Sub-region, continues to grapple with a shortage of staff.

The institution, founded in 1972, has more than 900 students. However, it has 14 staff on the government payroll out of 72 needed.

During a takeover ceremony for the incoming principal of Arua Nurse Training School, the outgoing Principal, Ms Grace Asio, said the large number of staff on the governing council payroll is crippling the institution's development.

"49 staff are on the governing council payroll, and yet we have only 14 on the government payroll, so that makes it hard for us to save," she stated.

Ms Asio added: "We have staffing gaps which exist, especially in the midwifery department where we are only two midwifery tutors. But when I stepped into management,

we remained with only one tutor. We were only saved by the clinical instructors who stepped in to cover the gap."

While acknowledging the staffing gap, Mr Raymond Ombere, the Arua City principal education officer, on Monday said most health training institutions are affected.

"Before this institution was taken away from the local government, the staffing level was only 8 tutors. We struggled as Arua City to raise it to 14, and this 14 has stagnated for a very long time...sometimes I won-

der whether the Ministry of Education cares about health training institutions, and yet they are aware of the magnitude of people who you are sending here to be trained."

He explained that district education officers in Uganda would mount pressure on the Ministry of Education to urgently address the issue of staffing in health training institutions across the country.

The incoming Principal of Arua Nurse Training School, Ms Betty Pacutho, now faces a daunting task to help improve the situation.

RESPONSE

The Commissioner of Health Education and Training in the Ministry of Education and Sports, Dr Safinah Kisu Musene, said the issue of staffing was one of the reasons the government centralised the 14 health training institutions in the country.

"The challenge we have now is

the introduction of the new law that is demanding other requirements. We missed recruitment last year because, as the papers came in, the recruitment of the Education Service Commission for this institution had been stopped," Dr Musene said, noting that the ministry is yet to get the guidelines for staff recruitment.