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Four die of Hepatitis B

KALIRO

By George Bita

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Four people lost their lives to Hepatitis B in Kaliro last year, the district health officer, Dr Sarah Kasewa, has disclosed.

She said after the deaths, the district health department immediately alerted the health ministry seeking support.

"The dead were among the 35 cases reported in the area. Usually, some patients shun medical centres, hence their ailments go unregistered," Kasewa said on Wednesday.

She said the situation has been complicated by the heavy workload for laboratory staff at Bumanya Health Centre IV, which serves as a district hospital.

"The district has a population of 254,047 people in 12 sub-counties. They depend on one health centre IV as the local government is yet to get a hospital," Kasewa said.

She advised locals to seek Hepatitis B vaccination at Bumanya Health Centre, saying even newborn babies are routinely vaccinated from there.

Godfrey Wahampi, a resident of Namwiwa parish, said some locals had gone for Hepatitis B vaccination at local clinics.



A medic checks on patients at Bumanya Health Centre IV. Photo by George Bita

ON THE GROUND

Dr Sarah Kasewa said the dead were among the 35 reported cases in Kaliro district.



medics who moved around schools and churches educating residents about the disease. They told locals to get vaccinated at sh30,000 each," Wahampi said.

Fred Kizito Mukasa, the Kaliro chief administrative officer, said the presence of fake Hepatitis B vaccines on the market complicates the situation. "Some people

got vaccinated, but of recent, there are conflicting reports about fake vaccines. It would need rigorous sensitisation to get people vaccinated," Mukasa said.

The Government recently halted Hepatitis B vaccination except at designated public health facilities, citing fake vaccines on the market.