

Male, female patients share ward

GULU

By Arnest Tumwesige

Denis Komakech, a resident of Godown sub-ward in Layibi division, who was admitted at Layibi Techo Health Centre III, had to share a ward with female patients. Komakech, who was suffering from malaria, was in disbelief when he woke up the following morning only to see himself surrounded by females.

A health worker, who spoke on condition of anonymity, decried the lack of proper accommodation for patients.

She said about two years ago, the facility had an admission ward for males, but it was later allocated to the immunisation programme.

She said they petitioned the authorities, but they have received no response. She also said the centre's annual funding is not sufficient to facilitate the partitioning of the ward.

The health centre admits about 30 patients every month, but the number went up last year during the malaria epidemic.

Richard Nyadru Anyama, the Gulu municipal principal health officer, said he was not aware that male and female patients shared a ward.

He, however, said some central government policies under the primary health care programme, withdrew the mandate from local government, to utilise its funds for infrastructural development.

He said the municipality had started constructing wards for both sexes for four health centre IIIs and so far, Aywe facility in Pece division has been completed.

A Health Centre III receives an annual budget of sh2.4m not sufficient for infrastructure development.