

Overfull. Bwindi Health Centre III shares a building with the sub-county offices and a police post, which is hampering service delivery.

BY ROBERT MUHEREZA
editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

Bwindi grapples with congestion



Deplorable. Bwindi Health Centre III building that houses a health centre, sub-county offices and a police post. PHOTO BY ROBERT MUHEREZA

RUBANDA. Nyamweru Sub-county is largely a hilly area like many places in Kigezi Sub-region.

It is a remote place by all standards. Hundreds of poor peasant farmers survive on growing Irish potatoes, cabbages and sorghum. The road infrastructure, health and education services are wanting.

Bwindi Health Centre III, the main health facility in the area, is overwhelmed by patients, who always seek medical services.

The health centre building in Kobusinde Village in Nyamweru Parish, also houses the Nyamweru Sub-county offices.

Nyamweru was created in 2010 after being carved out of Bubaare Sub-county. However, it has never established its own home for the last seven years.

All administration offices were established in the health facility building, constraining space for the health centre.

The building was partitioned to create space for office of the LC3 chairperson, sub-county chief, cashier, community development officer and the health centre. The same building also houses Nyamweru Police Post and there are police cells where suspected criminals are detained.

a medical ward, waiting room for expectant mothers, a laboratory, antenatal, injection room and a reception.

The facility has a clinical officer, a nursing officer, two nurses, two midwives, one nursing assistant, two laboratory technicians, one health inspector and two porters.

accommodation for health workers, lack of means of transport for them to do community outreach programmes and lack of clean water at the facility remain outstanding problems," says Mr Emukulot.

Congested

The sub-county chairperson, Mr David Karindugu, says they don't enjoy working from a congested place. "You can imagine a structure that was designed to serve as a Health Centre II and later elevated to serve as Health Centre III without any additional building and now serving as sub-county headquarters accommodating the offices of the LC3 chairperson, sub-county chief, cashier, community development officer and police post. The situation is not good but we have no alternative until the sub-county headquarters block currently under construction is completed," explains Mr Karindugu.

Ms Anett Maganisa, a resident of Nyamweru Trading Centre, says patients at the health centre have no privacy.

"The sub-county headquarters should be relocated to another place so that the health workers can get enough space to properly serve the patients in the privacy they deserve,"

ISSUES AT HAND

The Nyamweru sub-county chairperson, Mr David Karindugu, says the building that was designed to serve as a health centre currently accommodates the offices of the LC3 chairperson, sub-county chief, cashier, community development officer and a police post.



The officer-in-charge of Bwindi Health Centre III, Mr John Emukulot, shows the bed that is used for deliveries at the facility. PHOTO BY ROBERT MUHEREZA

says Ms Maganisa. About Shs200 million is required for the completion of the block but

Mr Kirindugu says it may take more years due to low local revenue.

He also appealed to the central government to raise money for the rehabilitation of the health centre building because it has developed cracks.

Coexistence

The Rubanda District vice chairperson, Mr Silver Baguma, says the district leadership is aware of the challenge of congestion at the health facility but appealed for harmonious coexistence until a solution is got.

"The district planning unit is working towards solving this problem and as district leaders, we feel that another land be acquired outside the health centre compound for sub county headquarters," says Mr Baguma.

Mr Baguma says: "The construction going on in the health centre compound is just a temporary measure to house the sub county staff but we must buy a piece of land elsewhere and construct a permanent home for the sub-county."

The Rubanda East MP, Mr Henry Musasizi, says government plans to construct administration blocks for all newly created sub-counties, including Nyamweru.

Shs200m

AMOUNT OF MONEY NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE NYAMWERU SUB-COUNTY OFFICE BLOCK

Some health workers are accommodated in the kitchen meant for the officer-in-charge of the health facility. Shortage of water is another challenge because the gravity flow scheme that was connected directly to the health centre got spoilt two years ago.

"Whereas we appreciate the efforts of the government and its partners in giving us solar lighting system and timely delivery of medicines, lack of

Challenges

The officer-in-charge of the health centre, Mr John Emukulot, says lack of space is a very big challenge.

He says the health facility receives about 50 patients every day and carries out 15 deliveries per month.

"Congestion is our main challenge because the labour ward is just a small room with one ordinary bed instead of having a delivery bed. The room that was supposed to serve as a general ward now serves as the sub-county hall for council meetings," Mr Emukulot explains. "Other four rooms that were supposed to be occupied by specialised health workers such as laboratory technicians are now being used as offices for the sub-county chairperson, sub-county chief, cashier and the community development officer," he says.

The outpatient department was partitioned using plywood to create

briefly

Teacher arrested

BUIKWE. Police in Lugazi Town are holding a primary school teacher for allegedly defiling and impregnating a 14-year-old girl. The suspect is a Primary Six teacher at Lugazi East Primary School. It is alleged that the suspect lured the minor to visit him at his house promising to give her a textbook. Ms Sarah Nakigudde, a relative, said the accused impregnated the victim in November last year and warned her never to reveal anything to her parents. Sseziwa regional police spokesperson, Ms Hellen Butoto, confirmed the incident, saying the suspect will be charged with aggravated defilement. [Jessica Sabano]

Suspected thief killed

BUIKWE. Police in Mukono District are investigating circumstances under which residents of Nakazadde Village in Lugazi Municipality allegedly killed a suspected thief. The incident happened on Tuesday after the suspect was found stealing a handbag. Mr Deo Mukasa, an eyewitness, said the deceased had been grabbing ladies' handbags for some time. The Sseziwa regional police spokesperson, Ms Hellen Butoto, confirmed the incident and warned residents against taking the law in their own hands. [Jessica Sabano]

Youth complain

LIRA. As the world marked International Labour Day on Tuesday, many people in Lira Town said it was meaningless to celebrate the day because of rampant unemployment in the country. "I have nothing to celebrate because since I graduated from Makerere University five years ago, I have no job," said Ms Agnes Atim, 28. Ms Docus Akullo, 29, who graduated from Kyambogo University in 2013 and is also jobless, said there is no need for celebrating the day. According to the 2014 National Population and Housing census, 58 per cent of Ugandans are unemployed. [Patrick Ebong]

Police recover bodies

MOYO. The police in Moyo and Adjumani districts have recovered three bodies of some of the people, who were involved in an accident when the boat they were travelling in capsized on Sunday. The Moyo District police commander, Mr Stephen Agaba, confirmed the development yesterday. He said the cause of the accident still remains unknown. "We are still investigating the matter since one of the victims survived. We are going to obtain information from him. We have not recorded his statement because he is still unconscious," Mr Agaba said. [Scovin Iceta]

Officer detained

BULIISA. A police constable has been arrested over allegations of theft. The suspect, who is also a police driver, works at Buliisa Central Police Station. It is alleged that he stole two cows and a goat in Kibambura Village in Ngwedde Sub-county, Buliisa District. The Albertine regional police spokesperson, Mr Julius Hakiza, confirmed the incident and said investigations are underway. "Yes, he has been arrested. He is currently detained at Buliisa Central Police," Mr Hakiza said on Wednesday. [Francis Mugerwa]