

Tororo fails to spend sh200m

MBALE

By Faustine Odeke

Tororo district failed to utilise sh233m from The AIDS Support Organisation (TASO) due to delays in accounting for funds that were earlier disbursed.

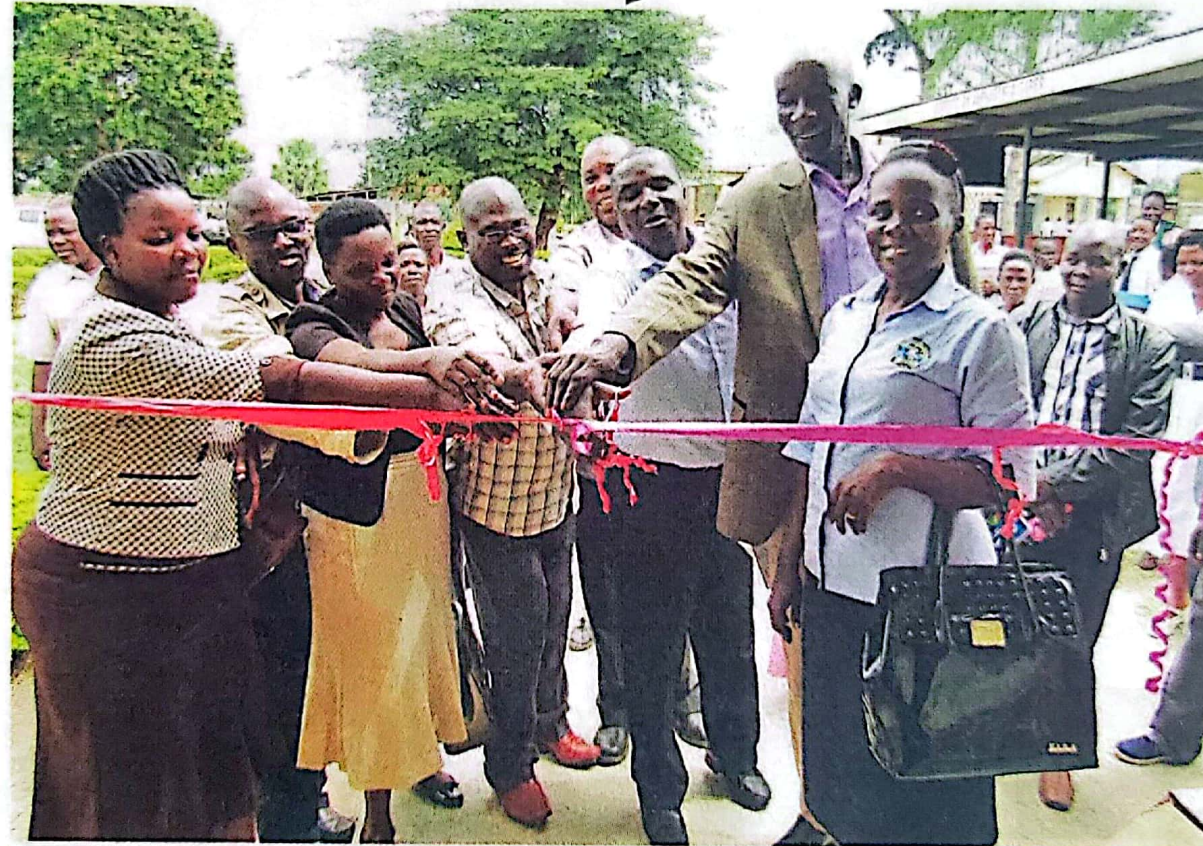
Annet Nandala Kimbowa, the TASO district health systems strengthening focal person, said since the district has failed to absorb the funds, they are left with no choice, but to return the money to their funders, the Centre for Disease Control (CDC).

"This financial year, we advanced the district sh117m out of the sh350m on condition that they get the balance after providing clear accountability of how the funds were utilised. That accountability has not come and the money is going back to CDC," Kimbowa said.

She made the revelation on Friday during the handover of the equipment worth sh2.8b that include refurbished laboratories, computers and solar lighting systems to the health facilities.

TASO is one of the implementing partners supporting the district in health systems strengthening with funding from the CDC.

The four-year project ends



Tororo district leaders cutting the tape to receive the medical laboratories on Friday. Photo by Faustine Odeke

next month. The senior assistant chief administrative officer in charge of health, Samali Sabona Epiat, said they would handle the officials who

have failed to account for the funds individually.

The Tororo resident district commissioner, Martin Orochi, promised to take stern action

against individuals, whom he said are running public offices like their individual business.

He directed TASO officials to furnish his office with credible

evidence so that he can go after the culprits.

He castigated some of the hospital management for what he called poor managerial

skills.

Epiat pointed out Tororo Main Hospital, which he said is slowly collapsing because of poor management.

He said the level of absenteeism in the facility was worrying and the institution is choked in huge debts of over sh180m and its managers are doing nothing to avert the situation.

Orochi also took a swipe on Mulanda Health Centre IV leadership, which he said must be dealt with accordingly due to rampant absenteeism, late arrival and early departure of workers at the facility.

He said he was shocked when he visited the facility a year ago, only to be welcomed by a bushy compound, with rats running around and the patients sharing a ward with bodies.

Earlier, the team praised the management of Mukuju Health Centre IV, saying it ranked the best in the district, both in terms of service delivery and reporting.

Francis Olweny, the district secretary for health, called upon the community members to exploit the availability of the services at the health facilities to check on their health status, rather than lamenting and treating themselves on painkillers.