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Govt moves to secure land titles for all public hospitals

BY SADAT MBOGO

MPIGI. The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development has directed district accounting officers to support a special team deployed to survey and process land titles for general hospitals across the country that are operating without formal ownership documents.

In a circular dated February 9, 2026, addressed to chief administrative officers and town clerks, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Ms Dorcas Okalany, said the exercise follows a request from the Ministry of Health in October last year seeking assistance in securing land titles for district general hospitals lacking proper documentation.

"The ministry has organised a team of officers to undertake reconnaissance, survey and mapping, land administration and the titling process of these health facilities," Ms Okalany stated in the letter.

According to the ministry's schedule, Mpigi General Hospital is among the facilities earmarked for titling under the first phase of the nationwide exercise. The hospital, which serves as the main referral facility for Mpigi District, reportedly has no clear record of its registered acreage.

More than 50 general hospitals across the country have been listed for the initial phase. They include Kisoro, Lyantonde, Kitagata, Kyenjojo, Kiboga, Bombo, Rakai, Mityana, Moyo, Nebbi and Tororo general hospitals, among others.

The ministry has urged accounting officers to extend full cooperation to the technical team to ensure smooth execution of the exercise.

Copies of the circular were also shared with the minister of Lands, the Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury, the Ministry of Health, resident district commissioners, district chairpersons and hospital administrators.

What districts say

Officials say securing land titles for public health facilities is critical in protecting government land from encroachment, enabling future expansion. The move is also expected to streamline land administration within the health sector.

In Mpigi District, local leaders have previously raised concerns about land-related uncertainties affecting service delivery and long-term planning at health facilities.

Mr Charles Nsobya, the Mpigi District planner, said securing a land title would ease planning and open doors for partnerships aimed at upgrading the hospital, which has a bed capacity of about 100 and serves thousands of patients from Mpigi and neighbouring districts.

He added that the initiative forms part of broader government efforts to safeguard land for public institutions, particularly essential service providers such as hospitals.

However, Ms Okalany did not specify when the nationwide titling process is expected to be completed.

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