

Malaba leaders in trouble over borehole

By **Faustine Odeke**

Residents of Obore village in Malaba town council have vowed to deal with council authorities for tendering out the only community borehole that serves patients at Malaba Health Centre III.

Because of the high water bills incurred by the health facility, the area MP, Fredrick Angura, lobbied for a new borehole that was drilled by Hope 4 Kids, a non-governmental organisation.

The borehole was meant to serve the health centre and the surrounding communities free of charge. However, upon completion, the council officials, through a letter written by the town clerk, tendered

out the facility to a one Rajab Fatuma to run it up to July, after depositing an upfront payment of sh60,000.

The move denies patients, health workers and community members access to the free, safe and clean water.

Background

The new borehole was constructed after the council failed to relocate the old borehole from private land belonging to a one Christine Ajibo Madiya.

Madiya had previously written to council to relocate the borehole because she wanted to develop her land, but the council remained adamant.

She went ahead and developed her land and erected

a wall fence, closing in the old borehole.

The town clerk, Irene Okuna, in her letter to Madiya, said they had communicated with higher authorities to relocate the borehole, but it was not possible.

"We make a request that you create a small gate for patients and health workers to access the water or you install a pump and reserve tank for the health centre to use," Okuna wrote in the letter of May 16, 2017.

Some councillors threatened to break Madiya's perimeter fence, but Madiya warned that it would tantamount to criminal trespass and malicious damage.

She said she was prepared to drag the council to court.