Officials seek major upgrade for nearly 100-year-old Nsinze health unit

BY RONALD SEEBE

NAMUTUMBA. As Nsinze Health Centre IV in Namutumba District approaches its 100th anniversary, officials are seeking a major upgrade to meet the growing healthcare demands of the population it serves.

Built in 1930 and now acting as the district's main referral health facility, the centre serves more than 365,000 people across three constituencies (Busiki, Busiki North and Bukono) but is struggling with outdated infrastructure, limited space, and staff shortages amid a rising patient load.

Patients at the Nsinze health unit are forced to share a single toilet block with more than 30 health workers, the facility's in-charge told *Daily Monitor* last Friday.

Dr Wallen Wabulembo described the situation as a serious public health concern, noting that staff and patients currently use the same sanitation facilities.

He raised the issue while presenting the centre's annual performance report and highlighting both achievements and ongoing challenges.

"Patients should not have to share toilets with staff, and every health worker deserves proper facilities," Dr Wabulembo said, underscoring the urgent need for improved infrastructure.

He added: "With more than 7,000 patients treated at the facility monthly, we urgently need improved infrastructure to serve the community effectively."

He noted that the Outpatient department at Nsinze Health Centre IV is outdated and too small, and that the facility also lacks additional lab services to offer a wider range of diagnostic tests such as blood tests.

Mr Allan Lubiite, a doctor at the facility, said although the facility has faced challenges, several achievements have been recorded. These include the construction of the centre's first-ever neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), a functional blood bank, solar-powered piped water, and a piped oxygen system.

"The only challenge is that the NICU space is very small and we lack a NICU ward where we can keep the attendants," he said last Friday. Dr James Kirya, the Dstrict Health Officer, (DHO) said his office is working hand in hand with local authorities to construct a separate toilet facility for health workers.

"It is very bad [that] patients... share a single toilet with health workers...the commitment I want to give my staff [is that] I'm working hard to improve your working condition," he said.

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