

Govt names best, worst hospitals

Quality of care. Top four performers in terms quality of care are Arua, Fort Portal, Gulu and Hoima hospitals.

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KAMPALA. Government has ranked Mbale Regional Referral Hospital as the best performer for the second year in a row after it registered the best health service deliverables, known as Standard Unit Outputs.

Mbale was ranked the best performing hospital in terms of patient volumes, followed by Masaka, Mbarara, Fort Portal, Gulu and Lacor as the top six whereas the bottom six were Kabale, Nsambya, Naguru, Rubaga, Mengo and Moroto emerging as the worst performing.

The annual health sector performance report for the Financial Year 2016/2017 released by the Ministry of Health during its 23rd joint sector review mission at the Office of the Prime Minister in Kampala on Friday, also named Moroto and Kabale regional referral hospitals as worst performers.

"Mbale hospital continues to lead in the volume of outputs pushed by the very high number of admissions at 58,387 compared to other regional referral hospitals," the report reads in part.

However, the report indicates that the 14 regional referral hospitals (RRHs) and other four large private-not-for profit hospitals registered an increase in health service deliverables from 9,83,5231 in 2015/2016 to 9,956,067 in 2016/2017.

According to the report, RRHs with Bed Occupancy Rate between 80 per cent and 90 per cent are considered optimally operating while those below that or above that need to make corrective actions to attain optimum state.

The report puts the average bed occupancy rate for all the 18 health facilities at 105 per cent. For instance, Kabale registered the lowest bed occupancy rate at 56 per cent whereas Lira registered the highest at 383 per cent, which the report recommended should be investigated.

Mbale delivered 9,123 mothers, registered 4,739 antenatal care visits, immunised 11,235 children, registering an average health service deliverable of 1,022,283 outputs.

State Health Minister Sarah Opendi,



Worst. The recently constructed outpatient department at Moroto Regional Referral Hospital. The hospital has been ranked among the worst performers in a new report. PHOTO BY STEVEN ARIONG

RANKING

1. Mbale
2. Masaka
3. Mbarara
4. Fort Portal
5. Gulu
6. Lacor
7. Jinja
8. Arua
9. Hoima
10. Soroti
11. Mubende
12. Lira
13. Mengo
14. Lubaga
15. Naguru
16. Nsambya
17. Kabale
18. Moroto

however, questioned the parameters used to rank the health facilities, saying Mbale is faced with accountability and service delivery issues.

"Mbale is the hospital that serves my constituency, but I get complaints from people that doctors there ask for bribes in order to offer services such as hernia operations," Ms Opendi said.

But Dr Henry Mwebesa, the commissioner planning, who is the new acting Director General Health Services, said the ministry owns the report but there were disagreements on the parameters used to rank the hospitals as "worst and best."

The acting Moroto Hospital director, Dr Alfred Ogwang, said the report does not reflect what is on the ground.

The average caesarean section rate at the hospitals stands at 28 per cent in the financial year under review. Soroti and Nsambya hospitals had the highest number of mothers undergoing surgery during delivery with an average C-section rate of 48 per cent.

They were followed by Rubaga hospital at 38 per cent and Mengo at 37 per cent, despite being ranked among the worst performing.

Masaka had the lowest C-section rate

of 7 per cent which is far below the expected 15 per cent average.

Indicators

Deliverables. According to the report, the health service deliverables are measured using indicators that include bed occupancy rate, average number of caesarean sections performed, the number of antenatal, postnatal, and family planning visits registered and immunisation coverage.

Over all, the health sector prides itself for achieving an increase in C-sections and blood transfusion from 36 per cent in 2015/2016 to 44 per cent in 2016/2017.

However, the report ranks Arua as the best hospital in terms of the quality of care whereas Mbale ranks in distant 11th position. Also, Kabale performs better than Mbale in terms of quality care. Kabale hospital registered the lowest maternal mortality rate at 63 per 100,000 when compared to other RRHs.