



**WORLD
DIABETES DAY**

Patients receive free services

Medical students from Makerere University examine an elderly woman during the commemoration of the International Diabetes Day last Tuesday at Mengo Hospital in Kampala. About 500 patients received free treatment that day.
PHOTO BY JOSEPH KIGGUNDU

Butambala leaders clash over Gombe Hospital management

Poor state. Leaders say some of the walls at the facility have developed cracks and are covered with cobweb.

BY SADAT MBOGO
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BUTAMBALA. A row has erupted among local leaders in Butambala District over the management of Gombe Hospital, the only major health facility in the area.

Although the Butambala District chairperson, Mr Godfrey Bavekuno Mafumu, defends operations of the current hospital management, some leaders led by the Resident District Commissioner, Mr Fred Bamwine, say the team has run down the institution.

Mr Bamwine claims that the hospital medical director, Dr Samuel Sekamatte, has 'personalised' everything at the facility, paralysing its normal operations.

"The deteriorating state of our re-

gional referral hospital is blamed on him (Dr Sekamatte). We shall not allow the ongoing mismanagement to continue. The way funds are handled is questionable and everything is a mess," Mr Bamwine said in a telephone interview yesterday.

Mr Bamwine said he first received complaints about alleged hospital mismanagement from some patients, who were admitted to the facility but failed to receive proper treatment.

"They were told to go to the nearby private clinics to buy drugs claiming that there were no drugs at the facility. So, this prompted me to write to the Ministry of Health and copied in officials at the State House Health Monitoring Unit to intervene," he said.

He said he received feedback with government sending a one Dr Julian Nabatanzi (the deputy executive director of the Health Monitoring Unit at State House) and a team of investigators, who spent three days in the district investigating the matter.

ISSUES

No proper treatment. Mr Bamwine said he received complaints about alleged mismanagement of the hospital from some patients, who were admitted to the facility but did not receive proper treatment.

Drug theft. According to the Health Monitoring Unit at State House report, 74 per cent of drugs supplied are stolen by the medical workers at the facility.

"Her (Dr Nabatanzi) findings exposed a lot of rot in management of the hospital. She found out that 74 per cent of the drugs are stolen by staff and put in their private clinics and pharmacies. Her findings also implicated a store manager, who has since gone into hiding. We are now waiting for a full report with recommendations to see what action to take," Mr Bamwine.

Recently, a Turkey-based organisation, Doctors Worldwide, funded the renovation of a children's ward aiming at improving health standards at the facility, but its ceiling caved in after completion injuring 11 patients.

But Muhammad Muwanga Kivumbi, the Butambala County Member of Parliament, blamed the hospital management for failing to supervise the project.

Mr Kivumbi said when he paid an abrupt visit to the facility recently, he discovered that the walls had cracks

briefly

Director appeals to interns

MASAKA. The Masaka Regional Referral Hospital director, Dr Nathan Onyachi, has appealed to intern doctors who have joined the ongoing sitdown strike by medical doctors to resume work. According to Dr Onyachi, the action by intern doctors has paralysed the hospital operations yet leaders of Uganda Medical Association had earlier announced that some vital departments such as maternity and casualty would remain open. "I have appealed to them (intern doctors) not to be misguided by the people claiming to be their leaders," he said.
[Christopher Kisekka]

Police investigate

SEMBABULE. Police in Sembabule District are investigating circumstances under which a medical worker's body was last Saturday found dumped by the roadside. Residents claim that Emanuel Okello, a former health worker at Ntuusi Health Centre IV, could have been killed from unknown place and later dumped by the roadside. Speaking to *Daily Monitor* yesterday, Mr Lameck Kigozi, the southern regional police spokesperson, said police preliminary investigations indicate that Okello was involved in a hit and run accident.
[Malik Fahad Jjingo]

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