

... at-  
... to OPM.  
Bureaucrats say the previ-

... processing and  
analysing biometric information  
on teachers and health  
workers to improve the quality

fingerprints, iris patterns and  
voice recognition. Biometrics  
cannot be forged.



**Monitoring device.** A biometric machine installed at the  
entrance of an office. PHOTO BY EDDIE CHICCO

# World Bank watchdog probes Shs480b hospital project

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**KAMPALA.** The World Bank Group's investigations and forensic unit, the Integrity Vice Presidency, is looking into possible cases of corruption and mismanagement of the \$130m (Shs481b) loan to Uganda to renovate 47 health facilities countrywide.

The loan was also given to buy and supply specialised medical equipment, including 19 ambulances.

The bank committed the loan for the Uganda Health Systems Strengthening Project in 2010 but its implementation commenced in February 2011 with an initial end date of July 2015 but was stretched to June 2017.

The loan repayment period is 40

years with a 10-year grace period.

Sources familiar with the matter told *Daily Monitor* that the World Bank office in Uganda invited the forensic unit after several red flags were raised.

These ranged from dubious award of contracts by ministry officials for procurement of equipment and renovation of the health facilities.

## Health facilities

The facilities include Mubende and Moroto regional referral hospitals, 17 general hospitals in Mubende, Mityana, Kawolo, Iganga, Kiryandongo and Moyo. Others are 27 health centre IVs in areas such as Kasanda, Buvuma, Atyak, Kibuku, Buliisa, and Pakwach.

Both the World Bank in Kampala and the ministry of Health technocrats declined to comment on the matter pending conclusion of the investigations.

Police's Criminal Investigations and Intelligence Directorates (CIID)

## PURPOSE

The Shs480b project was conceived to improve the health workforce development and management, infrastructure, leadership management and accountability, and maternal, neonatal and family planning services.

is also looking into related cases of mismanagement—probing both Health officials and contractors.

A government audit in select facilities revealed that design reports were delayed by a year and there were gaps in planning, especially in needs assessment, designs and cost estimation.

"Inadequate planning and needs assessment resulted in design changes which necessitated contract variations leading to project delays throughout the contract implementation period. The quality of works was relatively good except in a few instances where the quality of the concrete used was doubtful," the Auditor General, Mr John Muwanga's report reads in part.