

US builds modern health facility

AMURIA

By Emmanuel Alomu and Charles Achoda

The State Minister for Teso Affairs, Agnes Akiror, has commissioned a modern theatre at Kapelebyong Health Centre IV in Amuria district. It was constructed by Baylor-Uganda, an American non-governmental organisation, with support from the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

The theatre was constructed at a cost of sh864m. It has a water and solar system. Baylor-Uganda also refurbished the health centre's laboratory and maternity ward. Put together, the entire cost of the facility was sh1.5b.

The antiretroviral treatment (ART) Clinic, renovated by Uganda Cares at a cost of sh47m, was also commissioned by the minister.

The Government saluted the generosity of the American people through CDC for providing funds that were used to refurbish the facility, something which will improve health service provision to the people of Amuria district.

The minister said the facility is a testimony of government commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3, which is: "To ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all."

Akiror said the Government has made great strides in increasing life



Akiror cutting the tape of the refurbished theatre in Amuria on Wednesday. Photo by Emmanuel Alomu

expectancy and reducing some of the common killers associated with child and maternal mortality.

"The refurbishment of the maternity ward, laboratory and theatre is expected to contribute to the reduction of maternal mortality to less than 70 per 100,000 live births, as per the United Nations targets of 2030," she said.

SDG3 aims at achieving universal health coverage to include access to

essential medicines and vaccines.

The minister said the facility will also contribute to ending preventable death of newborns and children under five and also end epidemics, such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and water-borne diseases.

"With improved health strengthening systems, we believe health service delivery will tremendously improve in the region," she said.

Addy Kekihinwa, the executive director of Baylor-Uganda, disclosed that they have so far used \$2.2M (about sh7.9b) in the Teso sub-region for refurbishing maternity wards, laboratories, ART clinics and installing water and solar systems.

The officer in charge of Kapelebyong Health Centre IV, Dr Joseph Etonu, said patients can now easily access all the theatre and laboratory services freely.

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