

Soroti hospital gets ambulance

SOROTI

By Emmanuel Opio

Josephine Akol, 30, often hired a motorcycle for three kilometres from Awaliwal village to Soroti Regional Referral Hospital, to get medical services.

"It was challenging considering the poor state of our roads, coupled with the biting poverty," Akol said.

Her worries were relieved when the hospital received a new ambulance from the Government, through the office of the Minister for Teso Affairs last week.

The ambulance is considered to be a modern moving clinic with all necessary equipment on board. It is also meant to address the transport challenge that the hospital has faced for over two years.

While handing over the ambulance to the hospital management, Agnes Akiror Egungu, the Minister for Teso Affairs, said the ambulance is a fulfilment of the President's pledge during the 2016 campaigns.

Akiror further appealed to the hospital authorities to maintain professional medical standards to ensure that the facility is used for its rightful purpose.

"The ambulance was purchased at sh271m to serve



Dr Joseph Epodoi, the hospital's senior surgeon and others on receiving the ambulance. Photos by Emmanuel Opio

all persons, irrespective of their political affiliations, although it was donated by the President," Akiror noted.

She explained that the time for politics has passed and all people should focus on bringing service delivery close to people.

George Michael Egungu, the Soroti district LC5 chairperson, asked the Government to donate a district ambulance to meet the rising need for ambulance services. He noted that the ambulance that had been donated would not be able to serve a high number of people since it is meant for the

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Joseph Onyolo: It is a good health boost, but the Government also needs to solve the problem of drug scarcity in health centres, to benefit the community effectively.



who represented the hospital director, could not hide her excitement. She applauded the Government for fulfilling their pledge.

"The contribution is a timely blessing that has relieved the health sector from the burden of transporting the sick to the hospital," Egwau noted.

She asked the Government to resolve the problem of drug insufficiency faced by the hospital, to enhance the community to get sufficient health service as the hospital has received an ambulance.

regional hospital.

Florence Egwau, a senior consultant paediatrician,