

...1001 graduate.
She works as the technical officer-in-charge of planning

... said Ms Bonabantu has been given an office conducive to her condition.

for Disability Law and Policy, welcomed the move, saying it should set a challenge to other government organs.

Sickle cell patients shun govt hospitals for lack of medicine

BY JOSEPH KIGGUNDU

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WAKISO. Sickle cell patients in Wakiso District have abandoned government hospitals for failure to provide them with free drugs.

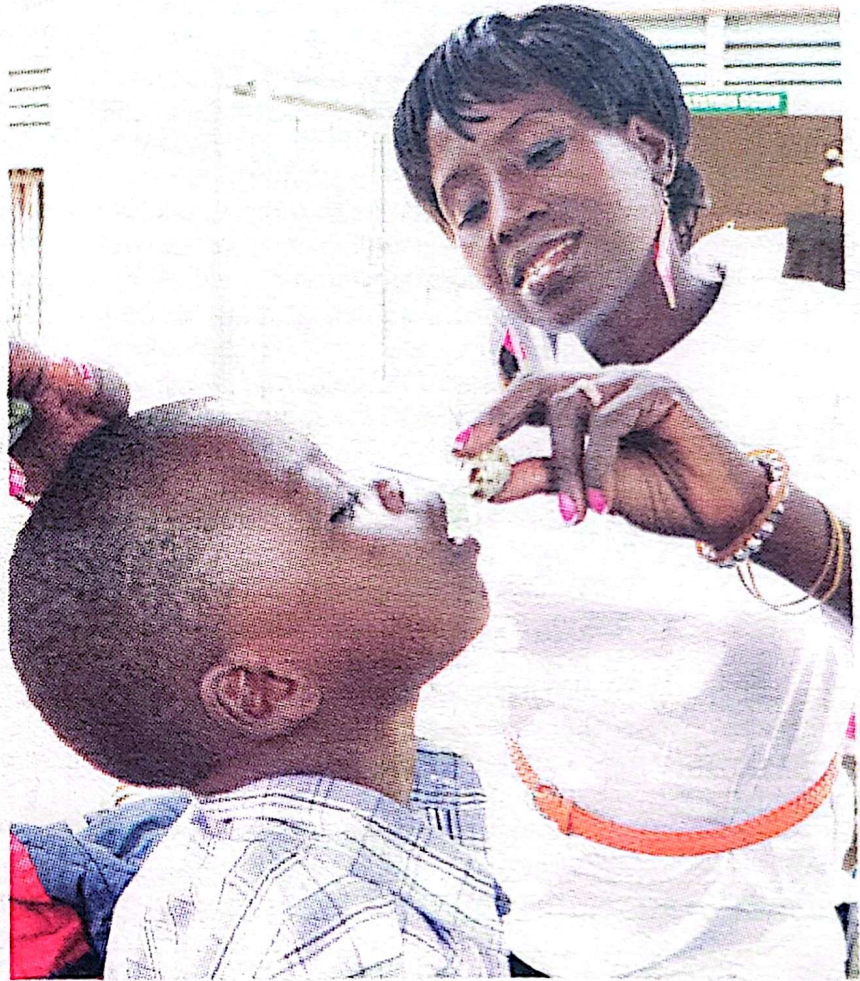
This was revealed by Mr Andreas Machnik, the chief executive officer of Machnik Sickle Cell Foundation Uganda, during a sickle cell camp at Wakiso Health Centre IV yesterday. The foundation, which provides treatment to sicklers, has a clinic at Entebbe General Hospital.

Ms Agnes Nakyanzi, the mother of a sickler in Gombe Kayunga Village in Wakiso District, revealed that she has many times visited Wakiso Health Centre for sickle cell drugs in vain.

"I used to get treatment from Case Hospital using my husband's medical insurance but when he died, that is when I realised that government hospitals and health centres have no drugs and those with them sell them expensively," Ms Nakyanzi said.

Mr John Kitimbo, another parent with a child suffering from the same condition, praised the Machnik Sickle Cell Foundation Uganda for the camp that provided free treatment and medication.

"These organisations are not for Ugandans but they



Intervention. A health worker feeds a sickler on quail eggs in August last year. PHOTO BY RACHEL MABALA

are doing great work which would have been done by the government through the Ministry of Health and National Medical Stores," Mr Kitimbo said.

Mr Andreas Machnik, the foundation's chief executive officer, urged couples to test

for sickle cell before marriage. "I also ask the government to put more effort in fighting sickle cell because it is killing mostly babies and young children. If government can inject money in fighting HIV/Aids why not in sickle cell?" he said.