

BY ASUMAN MUSOBYA

**JINJA.** The Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF), in partnership with the Ministry of Health, have renovated Buluguyi Health Centre III in Bugiri District and installed new medical equipment following persistent concerns from residents over the poor state of the facility.

The Ministry of Health donated a baby warmer, baby incubator, and baby cot, while the renovation works cost Shs320 million.

The officer-in-charge of the facility, Mr Ivan Kibike Ngiya, said expectant mothers have been trekking up to 30 kilometres to Bugiri General Hospital to access maternity services due to the lack of essential equipment at Buluguyi.

He noted that the challenge had forced many mothers to turn to traditional birth attendants, putting their lives at risk.

"We are very grateful for this intervention. We are committed to rescuing lives and changing the mindset of mothers still going to traditional birth

# UPDF equips, renovates Buluguyi Health Centre III



Bugiri RDC Paul Mwindu Kalikwan (centre) and UPDF soldiers and Bugiri District officials, commission the renovated Buluguyi Health Centre III in Bugiri District last week. PHOTO/ASUMAN MUSOBYA

attendants," Mr Kibike said at the commissioning of the renovated facility last

week. He also raised concern over the lack of staff accommodation, explain-

ing that midwives travel long distances from Bugiri Town, making it difficult for them to respond to emergencies, especially at night.

"Sometimes patients arrive when workers have already gone home. Government should urgently consider constructing staff quarters," he added.

However, Lt Emmanuel Kwikiliza of the UPDF Engineering Brigade, revealed that the Ministry of Health and the UPDF have already allocated Shs260 million for the construction of staff quarters at the facility.

Other planned works include the construction of toilets, a placenta pit, and an incinerator.

"We shall work with local leaders and the community to ensure quality service delivery," he said.

Lt Kwikiliza cautioned residents against grazing cattle within the facility compound or stealing equipment.

"Let us protect this facility because it

belongs to us."

The District Health Officer, Dr Stephen Kirya Bulolo, expressed concern over the increasing theft of medicines in government health facilities.

The affected facilities include Nanderema Health Centre II, Bugiri General Hospital, Buluguyi Health Centre III, and Muterere Health Centre III.

"We are worried because whenever drugs disappear, health workers are blamed. I call upon security forces to investigate and identify those tarnishing our image," he said.

Meanwhile, the Bugiri Resident District Commissioner, Mr Paul Mwindu Kalikwan, warned health workers against absenteeism, saying it reflects poorly on the government.

"I receive many complaints that health workers are absent, especially at weekends. As the Office of the President, we are ready to take action, and some may lose their jobs," he said.