

By Wilson Asimwe

Hoima city health centre gets sh590m maternity ward

Karongo Health Centre III in Hoima city has received a newly constructed maternity ward worth sh590m. The ward is expected to boost maternal and newborn healthcare services at a facility that serves up to 2,000 patients every month.

The ward was constructed by the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) Engineering Brigade under a contract awarded in June 2024. It is expected to address space constraints and safety concerns that had affected the old maternity unit.

Located in Hoima West division, the health centre has been grappling with a growing patient load, necessitating improved maternity infrastructure.

The old maternity ward had become dilapidated, developing cracks that posed risks to expectant mothers, and lacked sufficient space to accommodate the increasing number of women seeking antenatal and maternity services.

Capt. Yunus Ntegeka, the brigade's western region project manager, said construction commenced on June 18, 2024, and was completed on schedule using quality materials.

ADDITIONAL MONEY

Capt. Yunus Ntegeka, the brigade's western region project manager, revealed that the Government had allocated an additional sh300m for the construction of a placenta pit, staff quarters and a four-stance pit-latrines at the facility. Gerald Kyomuhendo, the officer in charge of Karongo Health Centre III, said the new maternity ward is expected to improve access to maternal healthcare services for city residents and neighbouring areas.

"Because many women have been struggling, sometimes we refer them to Hoima Regional Referral Hospital," Kyomuhendo said.

He added that the newly constructed maternity ward comprises a labour room, gynaecology ward, postnatal ward, antenatal care room, female immunisation room, records office, stores, kangaroo mother care unit, sluice room, duty room, reception area and other essential facilities required for maternal healthcare delivery.

PRIORITISE PROFESSIONALISM

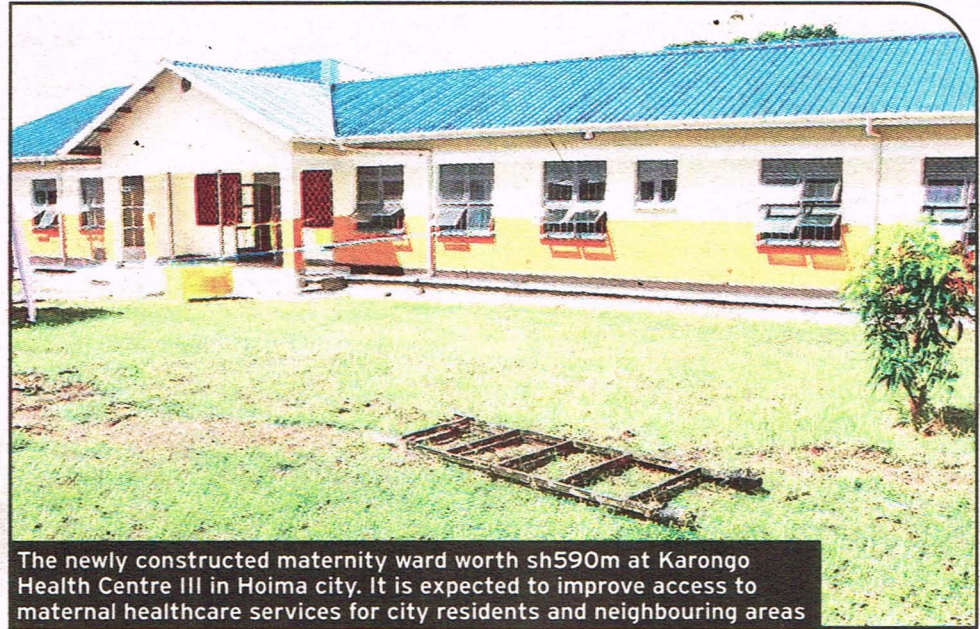
City mayor Edward Isingoma urged health workers at the facility to prioritise professionalism and quality service delivery to ensure residents receive the healthcare they deserve.

"We are appealing to our

health workers to prioritise professionalism while handling their work; we are ready to support them so that they deliver," Isingoma said.

He also urged health workers to improve service delivery and ensure effective utilisation of medicines

PHOTO BY WILSON ASIIMWE



The newly constructed maternity ward worth sh590m at Karongo Health Centre III in Hoima city. It is expected to improve access to maternal healthcare services for city residents and neighbouring areas

supplied to the facility. Speaking during the commissioning ceremony early last week, resident city commissioner Badru Mugabi said the Government

is considering upgrading Karongo Health Centre III to health centre IV status to cater to the increasing demand for health services.

Mugabi added that more staff

have been recruited.

"The maternity ward is already operational and fully equipped to handle deliveries and other maternal health services," Mugabi said.