

By John Musenze

The Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) presidential flag-bearer has promised to transform Uganda's healthcare system by introducing an affordable national insurance scheme.

Campaigning in Mukono district on Monday, Nathan Nandala Mafabi told residents that his government would prioritise health as a central pillar of national productivity, second only to agriculture.

Moving from town to town with FDC flag-bearers for Mukono Woman MP Vitaline Nalumansi Nansubuga, he listened to villagers describe overcrowded facilities, persistent drug shortages and unaffordable private hospitals.

In Katosi town council, he was confronted by the frustrations of Maimuna Kawooya, an elderly resident, who said Mukono Health Centre IV was

Mafabi unveils low-cost health insurance plan in Mukono vote-hunt

PHOTO BY ALFRED OCHWO

WHY MUKONO IS IMPORTANT

Mukono district, with a population of 932,672, is considered a stronghold of the Opposition. During the 2021 general election, the National Unity Platform's Robert Kyagulanyi polled 134,591 votes, while President Yoweri Museveni got 48,062. The Forum for Democratic Change's candidate, Patrick Oboi Amuriat, secured 1,148.

too small to handle the crowds that go there each day, adding that a patient who arrives at 9:00am might leave at 5:00pm



without being attended to or be told that medicines were unavailable.

Mafabi reassured her that the FDC government would reverse what he described as years of neglect that had left

public hospitals overwhelmed and private clinics out of the reach of ordinary Ugandans.

Mafabi told the residents that a healthy population was the foundation of economic growth, explaining that once

someone is not healthy, they cannot make money, and that Uganda's productivity was being undermined by preventable illnesses and the high cost of treatment.

He promised Kawooya that

Mafabi speaking to the electorate as he campaigned in Mukono district on Monday. (Scan picture using the Vision Digital Experience to watch video)

she would be among the first beneficiaries of his government because every Ugandan above 60 years will receive a monthly allowance of sh65,000 to support their welfare, saying the elderly had worked for this country and deserved dignity in their final years.

Mafabi further reassured Kawooya that his administration would introduce a national public health insurance scheme requiring each family to contribute only sh20,000 per year, after which they would be able to walk into any health facility, public or private, and receive free medical treatment.

He said although the health sector allocation had risen to 8.1% of the national budget, it still fell short of the 15% commitment under the Abuja Declaration.