

# OMORO VOTERS ASK CANDIDATES TO PRIORITISE HEALTH, ROADS

By Johnisani Ocakacon

Voters in Omoro district are pressing the candidates seeking political office to put health services and road infrastructure at the top of their agendas, saying these remain the greatest barriers to development.

## AREA OVERVIEW

The residents say Omoro still lacks a district hospital, and several sub-counties do not have functional health centres, forcing patients to travel long distances to Gulu or other districts for medical attention.

They say the bad road network makes movement difficult, particularly for people seeking healthcare and farmers accessing markets.

Despite being known for producing soybean and coffee, Omoro continues to lag behind in basic social services.

## DISTANT HEALTH FACILITIES

Dorcus Akite, 34, a mother of four from Lwala village in Aremo sub-county, said the health situation is critical.

She said many pregnant women give birth on the way to health centres and spend sh40,000 on transport due to the long distances



Lamwaka during a meeting with locals recently. She acknowledged the drug shortages in the area

## TRANSPORT NETWORK

Filda Akello, a women's representative of Akidi sub-county, said bad roads limit access to schools, markets and health facilities.

The Omoro district chairperson and NRM flag-bearer, Douglas Peter Okello Okao, said the district is working to address the challenges.

Kenneth Odyek, the NRM flag-bearer for Aremo sub-county, said only one health centre II serves more than five parishes. He called for more health units, better roads and improved education.

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"Their lives are at risk in case of complications. We need our leaders to prioritise health and the road network," Akite said.

She said some women spend sh20,000 on scans in private facilities, an amount many cannot afford.

The residents also raised renewed concerns about the

nodding syndrome.

"The nodding syndrome affecting our children has been forgotten. No one seems to care," Lucy Laker from Dino in Odek sub-county said.

She said some children have drowned or fallen into fires due to their condition, while others die from malnutrition.

"We are poor and cannot afford the special diet these children need. The Government should support us with food, drugs and build a rehabilitation centre," Laker said.

## DRUG SHORTAGES

Omoro District Woman MP Catherine Lamwaka said President Yoweri Museveni promised to build a rehabilitation centre and a hospital for children suffering from the nodding syndrome.

She acknowledged the drug shortages and inadequate equipment and said she is lobbying for more health centres III and seed secondary schools.

## MOROTO ROAD

Lamwaka also confirmed that Moroto Road is included in the 2025/2026 budget, along with rural electrification projects.