

By **Abdulkarim Ssengendo**

Over 1,000 residents in Isingiro district have benefited from free medical services during a one-day health camp held on Saturday at Rwekuubo Health Centre IV.

The State Minister of Agriculture organised the medical camp in charge of Animal Industry and MP for Isingiro North, Lt. Col. Bright Rwamirama, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Kampala-Naguru.

The camp offered a wide range of free health services, including dental care, diabetes screening, cancer screening, family planning, eye care and HIV testing.

The services were delivered by a team of medical professionals led by Willy Dhamuzungu, the President of the Rotary Club of Kampala-Naguru.

Rwamirama said he initiated the medical camp after realising that many communities in Isingiro face both communicable and non-communicable diseases, yet few residents can afford the high cost of medical care.

"As an MP and member of the Rotary Club of Kampala-Naguru, I organised this camp based on experience. This district hosts a large population, including thousands of refugees in Oruchinga and Nakivale. These numbers overwhelm our existing health facilities," he said.

Rwamirama explained that many patients are referred to Mbarara for specialised treatment, but fail to go

OVER 1,000 RESIDENTS RECEIVE FREE MEDICAL TREATMENT

PHOTO BY ABDULKARIM SSENENDO



Rwamirama addressing residents who turned up for treatment at the medical camp recently

due to high costs, forcing some to rely on traditional medicine, even when their conditions are treatable.

"We organised this medical camp to address such challenges and ensure our people access quality health care," he added.

Rwamirama also urged Ugandans to take health matters seriously by

embracing regular medical check-ups as a way of maintaining a healthy life.

He encouraged residents to adopt preventive measures, such as eating well, engaging in regular physical exercise and maintaining hygiene to avoid lifestyle diseases.

Rwamirama thanked President Yoweri Museveni for granting

Rwekuubo Health Centre IV district hospital status, noting that the upgrade will significantly improve health service delivery in Isingiro district.

He further commended health workers at the facility for working 'extra hours to serve the large population, revealing that the facility, despite its health centre IV status, conducts about 132 surgeries every month, procedures ordinarily handled by a fully-fledged hospital.

Dhamuzungu said the medical team identified a high number of patients suffering from hypertension, while diabetes was also common, with many residents unaware that they were diabetic.

"The numbers are overwhelming, and this shows that Ugandans are improving in their health-seeking behaviour. We also received many men who turned up for prostate cancer screening," he said.

Dhamuzungu added that the Rotary Club of Kampala-Naguru has organised several similar medical camps across the country as part of its commitment to community health.

RESIDENTS COMMENT

Residents who benefited from the camp praised the organisers, describing the services as life-saving.

Lamech Kihembo, 65, from Mabona in Isingiro North, said: "We are grateful to Hon. Bright Rwamirama and the Rotary Club of Kampala-Naguru for this great initiative. It has saved many lives. Many of us could not raise money to access all these health services."

Vereriano Kamugisha from Ruhimbo Rumuri Ward in Isingiro Town Council said poverty had made it difficult for many residents to seek medical care.

"Affording these services was a dream for many of us. We are thankful to everyone who thought of bringing these services closer to us," he said.

Maria Gorretti Kendaba from Endinzi in Bukanga said she had suffered back pain for many years.

"When I heard about this medical camp, I thanked God. I received medicine and feel relieved," she said.

Apollo Milton from Kamutinda village said he had long suffered from dental complications, but could not afford treatment.

"I am happy today because I received the medicine I needed," he said.