

Hoima gets personal protective equipment

PHOTO BY LAWRENCE MULONDO

HOIMA

By Lawrence Mulondo

Hoima district has received personal protective equipment (PPEs) worth sh57m.

The items were donated by SBC Principal Contractors, who are undertaking construction works at Hoima International Airport.

The donation included 100 N95 face masks, 50 KN95 masks, 10,000 surgical face masks, 20 packets of examination gloves and 1,500 litres of hand sanitiser.

Others included 50 body bags (adult size), 100 boxes of 25 bars of soap, 1,000 packets of azithromycin tablets, 100 packets of zinc tablets and 100 packets of vitamin C.

Handing over the PPEs to the district COVID-19 taskforce last week, Amos Muriisa, the SBC public relations officer, who was representing



Kabagyenyi (left) receiving PPEs from RDC Tumwebaze (centre) and Muriisa at the office of the resident district commissioner last week

the SBI Uganda operations manager, Dotan Hameiri, said the donation was part of the company's corporate social responsibility.

"We give back to the community in appreciation of the favourable working environment they provide for the company staff to finish the

project in time," Muriisa said.

INADEQUATE PPEs, MEDICINES

While receiving the items, the district officials cited inadequate PPEs and medicines as some of the challenges frustrating COVID-19 home-based care services.

treatment unit.

Kabagyenyi said although the Government supplies PPEs and medicines every month, these are not enough due to the high number of cases.

"The drugs are not enough to handle home-based care. As Village Health Teams visit the patients, they advise them to buy their own medicine," she said.

GROWING POPULATION

Jackson Magambo Mulindambura, the secretary Hoima City Council, said following the discovery of oil and existence of refugees at Kyangwali settlement, the district's population is growing rapidly.

He added that the district has few health centres and that some health workers ran away for fear of contracting COVID-19.

"The Government needs to extend more support to

WHAT THE TASKFORCE SAYS

Yosam Tumwebaze, the Hoima resident district commissioner and co-chair of the district COVID-19 taskforce, said when President Yoweri Museveni relaxed the lockdown, people assumed that COVID-19 was no more.

He said people have relaxed on observance of the COVID-19 standard operating procedures.

"People do not wear masks the right way, the number of people in towns is increasing, gatherings are no longer observing social distancing, bars are open and curfew is not respected," he noted.

the district considering the growing population," he said.