

Diarrhoea hits Mukono varsity

BY HENRY NSUBUGA

The Uganda Christian University (UCU) has of recent been hit with acute diarrhoea, the university's director health services, Dr. Geoffrey Mulindwa, has confirmed.

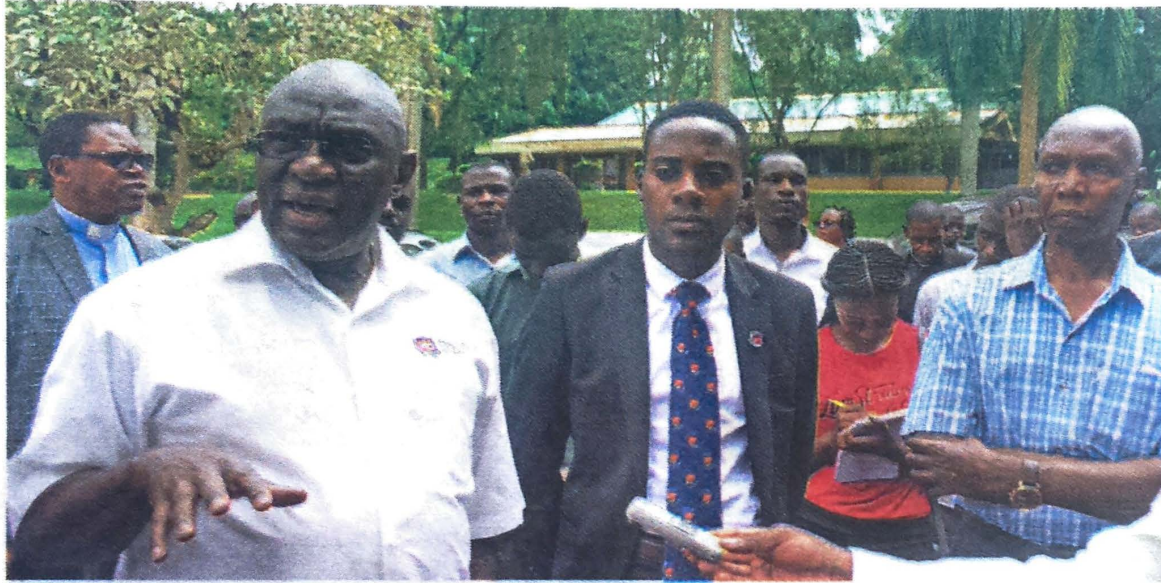
Mulindwa made the confirmation on Thursday, while addressing the media saying so far, 23 cases of acute diarrhoea has been registered from January. He said all the victims are members of the UCU community.

"The good thing, we have fully handled the situation and it is in our control. The victim's history was taken, and we are fully investigating them, to know what could have been the cause. We gave them treatment and we are still doing the follow up on them," Mulindwa said.

According to Mulindwa, they informed the Mukono district health office about the incident.

However, when contacted on phone, Mukono district health officer, Dr. Elly Tumushabe said he had not yet known about the UCU's acute diarrhoea incident.

New Vision got to know



Senyonyi (second-left), addresses the media as the guild president (in tie) and Mukooza (right), look on.

(Picture by Henry Nsubuga)

about this information during the UCU Thursday afternoon lunch hour service, where the UCU Health Centre II clinician, Zacaria Muddu, was sensitising the students' community on how to behave, in order to avoid diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea and dysentery among others.

"You may see me teaching you how to wash your hands after visiting the toilet and take me for granted as most of you

are laughing. But just from January, we have received 23 cases of acute diarrhea," he noted.

In a separate interview, Muddu said they treated 20 of those diarrhoea cases and at least two were referred to Mengo Hospital, for further diagnosis in fear that it could have been cholera.

However, Muddu said that the two patients came back from Mengo Hospital with

good news that none of them had cholera.

"I am calling upon the UCU community not to take hygiene-related matters for granted. They must avoid drinking water which is not boiled, always wash hands after visiting the toilets and avoid eating food from restaurants whose hygiene is not good," he said.

Muddu cautioned the university girls from growing

long finger nails, saying they will not enable them wash their hands properly, hence carrying the germs.

The UCU vice-chancellor, Canon Dr. John Senyonyi, said the hygiene subject must be taken seriously because there are people who visit toilets and leave minus washing hands, which is so dangerous not only to them, but also to the community where they live.

"At one point, I refused to take Holy Communion because the clergy was not washing hands, therefore, we must take the issue of washing hands so serious," Senyonyi said.

When he was asked to elaborate more about the 23 acute diarrhoea cases which have been at the university from January, Senyonyi declined and referred us to Dr. Mulindwa, who is the director health services.

Dr. Edward Mukooza, the head of UCU's health and safety committee, said due to the huge numbers of the people always at UCU, the diarrhoea cases cannot be avoided.

Mukooza, however, said this should not call for alarm because knowing about it at infancy is a success as they are going to avoid it from spreading.

The UCU guild president, Bruce Mugisha, acknowledged the UCU health team for the sensitisation, saying diseases like cholera have claimed some lives in the country.

Mugisha said it is good that the university has swung into action before the situation gets out of hand.