



“Mental health is largely neglected”

The majority of health projects focuses on HIV/AIDS or on tropical diseases like malaria. Mental disorders are complex and long-term and addressing them does not provide the straightforward outcomes and success indicators; many donors are looking forward to measure the impact of their projects. While launching a report on mental health in post-conflict Northern Uganda in the context of Modernization and traditional Belief, Kamilla Krygier the Advisor and Trainer for Peace building said there is wide spread stigmatization of people with mental disorders leading to aggressive behaviour towards them. She added that over 50% of the low-income countries do not have a policy specifically dedicated to mental health. Kamila says this has contributed largely to violation and abuses towards people suffering from mental ill health, as the protection of their rights is not ascertained. She noted that even outside the context



of war and mass violence, 14 per cent of the global disease burdens have been attributed to neuropsychiatric disorders making them the most burdensome of all diseases. The report further stated that by 2030, depression would become the most common illness overtaking HIV and cancer by far. Kamilla added that, Uganda is a low-income post conflict that exemplifies the mental illness problem. She said there is a mental health policy but it is outdated showing it was last revised in 1964 and offensive to the people with mental health problems.

She also said that the new mental health policy that represents a positive development towards improving the situation of persons with mental ill health has remained in draft for a considerable number of years.

JPIIJPC commissions new building

John Paul II Justice and Peace Centre (JPIIJPC), is a consortium for justice and peace, which is funded by Missionaries of Africa, Mill, hill Missionaries, Comboni Fathers, Holy Cross, Jesuits and Comboni Sisters. JPIIJPC was established in 2007 to answer calls for the people of God in Uganda who were still afflicted by poverty, exploitation, corruption, violence and lack of respect for human dignity and rights. The centre since its inception, has been renting premises in January 2014, they commissioned a new building, which will house the Centre's activities.

The Italian Ambassador to Uganda, His excellency Stefano A. Dejak commissioned the new building on January 24, at the John Paul Justice and Peace Centre. While commissioning the building, the ambassador called upon Ugandans to take up responsibility and start living without corruption. He added that Uganda is a beacon of hope in a region that is not so peaceful. The ambassador added that a good sense and not hatred should prevail in South Sudan.

At the opening of the centre, the General Secretary Uganda Episcopal Conference Msgr John Kauta said the centre should become a resource centre where people can get all the information needed.