

Medical stores to make syringes, catheters

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KAMPALA. The Joint Medical Stores (JMS) is set to manufacture medical sundries such as syringes, catheters, giving sets and cannulas locally in a move expected to lower prices of the supplies.

The not-for-profit organisation, founded by the Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau and the Catholic Medical Bureau, is currently an importer and supplier of medicines and medical supplies to mainly faith-based health facilities countrywide.

JMS executive director Bildard Baguma told *Daily Monitor* that they have built a factory in Jinja and expect to start production latest next year.

"We are still in the process of getting technical partners to start manufacturing the products," he said.

Dr Baguma said they are investing \$20m (Shs72b), hoping that the government will guarantee them rights to supply public health facilities.

He revealed that JMS has already acquired an investor's licence and plans to get a foreign co-investor are in advanced stages. He declined to name the prospective foreign firm, citing business confidentiality.

This would be the first time that the supplies are locally made if production starts within a year as envisaged. "We have signed a technical cooperation agreement with one of the leading global producers of these items and we have agreed to use their technology," Dr Baguma said.