KITEBI GETS SH300M MOBILE CLINIC, AMBULANCE

By Nelson Kiva

In a remarkable display of leadership and innovation, Kitebi Secondary School in Kampala has procured a fully equipped mobile clinic worth sh300m, a response to a tragic incident that exposed the urgent need for timely medical care.

The initiative followed the death of a beloved teacher who lost his life after a desperate search for transport at night ended with him being carried on the back of a bodaboda. The tragedy revealed a painful reality – help arrived too late.

Instead of mourning and moving on, the school resolved to ensure that such a loss would never happen again. The result was the acquisition of a modern mobile medical facility designed to serve both the school and the surrounding community.

The school's headteacher, Haji Muhamad Kamulegeya, led the initiative by mobilising off-budget support to purchase the life-saving vehicle.

While unveiling the medical van to students and staff on Monday, Kamulegeya announced that the facility would not only serve students and teachers, but the surrounding community too.

As the engine roared to life before jubilant students and teachers, Kamulegeya unveiled more than a medical van – it was a declaration that tragedy would not have the final word.

"This is a facility that was brought forward to extend our services to the community. Of course, when you talk about community, it involves the students, teachers, parents, well-wishers, partners and suppliers. So, this medical van came here in line with promoting and protecting the lives of human beings," Kamulegeya said.

He said the vehicle combines the functions of a mobile clinic and an ambulance and is equipped with advanced medical supplies.

"The facility is well stocked with several medical items including those for intensive care units. People in the community can reach us physically and online. It has mobile doctors and clinicians who can even take health services to people's homes. It is a new innovation not only in Kampala, but the whole of Uganda," Kamulegeya said.

The headteacher said the mobile medical facility will also accompany students during co-curricular activities to ensure quick medical response whenever necessary.

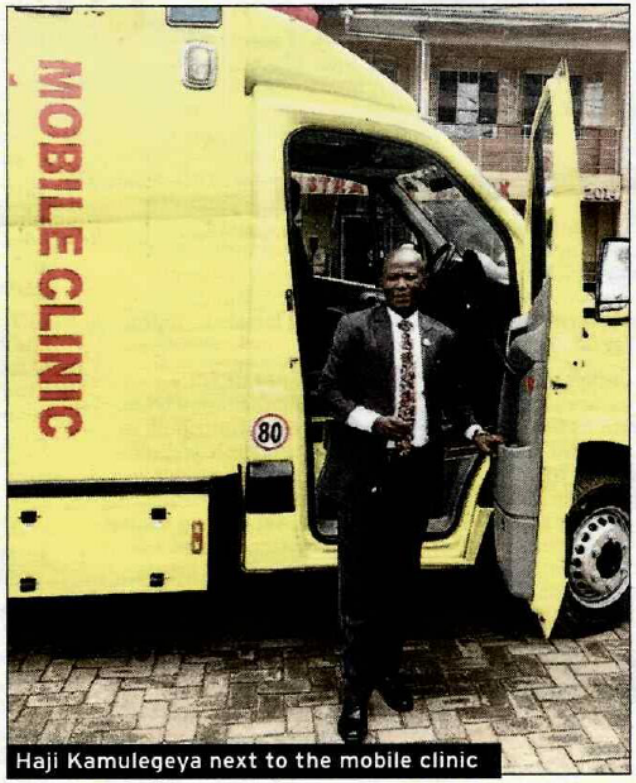
The school has long operated a sick bay, but Kamulegeya believes the new mobile clinic will significantly strengthen the health services available to students.

An advocate for strong school-community partnerships, Kamulegeya emphasised that education and community wellbeing are closely linked.

"The school has control over the education of the learner for only a small part of his/her study hours – about eight months in a year, five days a week, and about six hours a day. During the two months of vocation/holiday, the school's influence over the learner is practically nil," he said.

He added that schools must remain true representatives of their communities rather than institutions serving narrow interests.

"When I promote health in school, I'm promoting education. When I promote health in the community, I'm promoting education. When I promote health in the country, I'm promoting education," Kamulegeya said.



Haji Kamulegeya next to the mobile clinic

BETWEEN THE LINES

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RESIDENT REACTS

Residents living near the school also welcomed the project, saying it sets an important example for other institutions.

Sylvia Namwanje, a resident of Mutundwe, said the initiative shows that government schools can also innovate and mobilise resources to improve services.

"For a government school to buy such an expensive equipped ambulance, it is a great challenge to other schools to be innovative to come up with initiatives that supplement school budgets to achieve projects which support education," Namwanje said.

STUDENTS HAVE THEIR SAY

Students welcomed the new development, describing it as a rare innovation in Ugandan schools.

John Pascal Tibusweke said the facility resembles advanced medical services he had previously only seen in documentaries and movies.

"We appreciate our team leader for all these efforts because it's very nice. It looks good, and I think we shall be able to get a lot of services from it," Tibusweke said.

Milly Namata, the head of students, also applauded the initiative and credited the headteacher for improving students' welfare.

"We are gifted as Kitebi fraternity for the headteacher that God has given us for these past six years. He came up with this idea to improve our health as students and he also wishes well for the people outside our school."

TEACHERS' RESPONSE

Teachers also praised the development, noting the significant transformation the school has undergone in recent years.

Reagan Lutaya, a teacher at the school, said the ambulance would benefit both students and residents in the surrounding communities.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank our team leader for bringing us this unique facility to our school. When you try to look back 10 years ago and you compare the conditions that were in place and the conditions that we have now, you can see a very big improvement of the school," Lutaya said.

"We have very many parents and mothers in the community that die because of lack of emergency means to get to the hospital. So, this ambulance will help everyone in the community."