

Cure Hospital in drive to raise sh95m

MBALE

By Daniel Edyegu

The Mbale-based Cure Hospital will this Sunday hold a road race aimed at raising sh95m to conduct 100 surgical operations.

“Our objective, besides raising the money for the surgeries, is to create awareness about hydrocephalus, spina bifida and other neurological conditions. The runners will be taken on a tour of the hospital during the event,” Tim Erickson, the executive director of Cure Hospital, told *New Vision* recently.

Tickets for the road race are at sh20,000 for adults and sh15,000 for children. The road races distances include 10,000m, 5,000m and 1,000m.

The tickets for the marathon are

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being sold at the Cure Hospital reception, Total petrol station and Bam Shopping Centre in Mbale. In Kampala, they are being sold at Friecca Pharmacy in Wandegaya.

Erickson said a single operation would cost sh5.5m. Given the fact that the majority of the children the hospital treats are from low-income families, the amount has been highly subsidised, bringing it down to sh950,000 per operation, whose payment is spread over a one-year period.

“With this amount, we take care of patients and their carer for the time they are with us for treatment. It is charity. Even when a parent with a sick child comes without any money, we try to find ways of helping them out. We do not turn away parents without money,” Erickson said.

Dr Noah Matagala, a medical officer at Cure Hospital, said hydrocephalus constitutes more than 80% of 1,100 life-saving operations that the hospital

carries out annually on the five major child neurological conditions.

Causes

Matagala said hydrocephalus is caused when cerebrospinal fluid (‘water’ generated in the brain) fails to drain out into the body system due to the blocking of the ventricles (tubes) in the head, which drain the fluids.

“In adults, about 150mls of cerebrospinal fluid is generated thrice a day – that is 450mls in total daily. In children, about 90mls of the fluid is generated thrice daily. That is about 270mls per day. The fluid is supposed to pass through the ventricles out of the brain and absorbed back into the body system. It is passed out as waste with other body fluids,” Matagala said.