

BUGISU AND TESO REGIONS TIPPED TO BENEFIT FROM THE INITIATIVE

Karamoja gets x-ray machine

NAPAK

By Godfrey Kimono
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Karamoja residents have been relieved of travelling long distances to access X-ray services after getting new equipment at Matany Hospital in Napak district.

The new modern phototherapy (X-ray machine) worth \$65,000 (about sh230m) was donated by the Rotary Club of Port Bell, with support from the Rotary Club of Ammersee in Germany and the Rotary Foundation.

While handing over the equipment at the hospital on Sunday, Geoffrey Habaasa, the project focal point person of the Rotary Club of Port Bell, said the machine is a timely intervention since the one they had been using had been inefficient.

The medical superintendent of the hospital, Dr John Bosco Nsubuga, said the new machine would enhance the hospital's ability to efficiently manage more patients who need X-ray services in Karamoja.

About 5,500 X-rays are done annually and the old machine could not handle this workload effectively, given its state," Nsubuga noted.

Matany is a private hospital, but is run according to a public-private partnership arrangement. It is located about 35km outside Moroto

Nangiro (left) explains how the X-ray machine works to staff and Rotary Club members at Matany Hospital in on Sunday.
Photo by Godfrey Kimono



town and handles about 24,000 patients annually.

Nsubuga said, previously, patients would be referred to Moroto and Soroti hospitals, about 150km away for X-ray services in case the machine broke down.

The Napak resident district commissioner, Nahaman Ojwe, said the equipment will not only benefit the residents of Matany, but also Karamoja, Bugisu and Teso regions.

Beliah Bashabe, who spoke on behalf of participating Rotary clubs in Germany, said the donation is aimed at promoting accessibility, quality and affordability for more

BETWEEN THE LINES:

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patients. Matany is a hard-to-reach area and X-rays would be done mostly using an old machine, which is over 40 years old. The new machine is the answer to the

increased workload," said David Sserunjogi, who led the team of Rotarians.

Charles Nangiro, the radiographer at the hospital, said a new team of over 25 staff, including technicians, medical workers and radiologists have been trained on how to use the equipment.

The chairperson board of governors of Matany Hospital, Paul Abul, said the Karimojong have changed their attitude towards the modern equipment as opposed to the olden days, where they believed in traditional herbs and killing of cattle for the spirits to heal the sick.