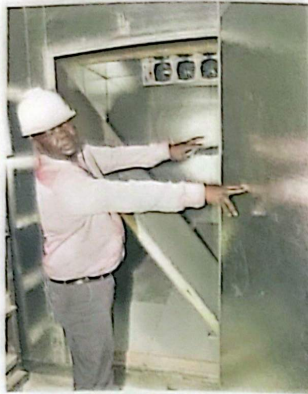


Mulago to provide organ transplant



The new refrigerated unit of the mortuary. The hospital will be able to keep 160 bodies

By John Agaba

The new Mulago Specialised Hospital and the Maternal and Neonatal Centre, a refined architecture has been carefully planned for posterity. This part of the project has cost the Government \$54m (sh122b).

The women's hospital, expected to be commissioned on October 8, will perhaps be the biggest and finest of its kind on the continent.

A team of New Vision journalists was yesterday granted an opportunity to access the facility soon to be unveiled.

With a 520-bed capacity, it is expected to better women's health and reduce the lousy statistic of 16 mothers dying daily due to pregnancy-related complications.

It is not just about the architecture, but also about the intended health care services that will be rendered to Ugandan women inside these fine floor rooms.

Artificial fertilisation

For the first time, Mulago will conduct artificial fertilisation, where women who do not want to have babies yet can choose to store their ova at the facility's Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) centre on level three until they are ready to have children.

There will also be technology to facilitate a woman to pick a specific male sperm she would prefer to fertilise her egg if she is looking for certain attributes for her baby. This means there will also be sperm banks and the facility will also aid sperm donations.

Private suites

Specialised care will be given to mothers. The facility has 45 private suites with a bathroom, kitchen, waiting room, kitchen, among others. It also has a presidential suite. This has everything deluxe and improved security.

The ramp that goes all the way to the 10th floor, where there is a helipad, means design takes into consideration the rights of persons with disabilities. There are also lifts.

According to Simon Kasito, the architect, level one of the Mulago Specialised Hospital and the Maternal and Neonatal Centre, will be mainly for emergency, level two will cater for outpatients and also houses laboratories. IVF will be located on level three, while level four is for high-risk maternity, where the neonatal unit is located. Level five is for the general delivery units and level six is high-risk monitoring.

The 45 private suites are on level seven, while level eight has five VIP suites, plus the presidential suite. Level nine is for services and administration. Level 10 has the helipad, where a helicopter



Old blocks under renovation. Photos by Roderick Ahimbazwe



The new outpatients unit for VIP and private patients



New block housing 24 theatres

can land. From here, patients can see a panoramic view of Kampala city.

The facility contractors (Arab contractors) promised it will be their gift to Uganda this Independence.

The women's hospital, which sits on 1,000 square metres and financed through funding from the Islamic Bank and Government, will be expected to start admitting mothers by the end of the year.

Mulago Hospital

Renovations at the main Hospital are ongoing and civil works are expected to be completed by December. This part of the project will cost a total of \$49m (sh176b).

Works supervisor Joadah Joel Aita, said the refurbished Mulago will provide organ transplant services and carry out other sophisticated medical treatments.

"We have scaled up the intensive care unit from just about five to 30 beds. We have built a whole new pathology centre. Our mortuary will now be able to accommodate 160 bodies, which will be refrigerated until relatives come for them," he said. The capacity for just 12 bodies.

Constructors, Roko, have also added another unit of heart operations and other procedures.

fertility centre



Final stages of gardens between blocks where people can rest

"The whole idea was to transform the facility from a national referral to a specialised hospital that is able to perform all these procedures so that our people do not have to travel abroad," health minister Jane Ruth Aceng said last year.

With the additional modern theatres, the hospital will be able to carry out transplants of even the sophisticated heart, kidney and bone marrow procedures.

Ugandan doctors (heart doctors) have been undergoing various trainings in India, Aceng added then.

The lower Mulago will have a bed capacity of more than 1,000.

For now, scaffoldings take the bulk of the space as workers put in shifts to ready the complex by end of the year.

"From the (main) gate to every corner (of the hospital), we wanted to build something solid. We have changed everything from the plumbing, wiring

"Everything at the facility is electrified. Every bed is wired and has medical gas outlets." Supervisor

and modification of rooms to create these specialised theatres. We thought about everything. We did not change the concrete because it is still solid and will be for hundreds of years," Aita said.

High tech

"Everything at the facility is electrified. Every bed is wired and has medical gas outlets, nitrogen oxide and oxygen and sanctions to suck blood

after operations, so that no blood spills on the floor," he said.

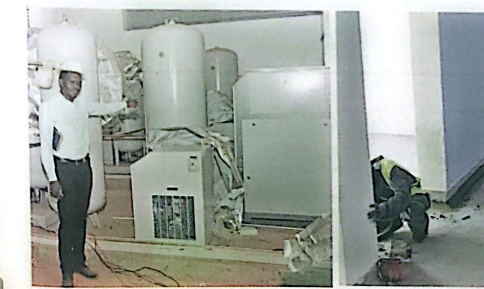
The beds will also be fit with video conferencing enablers so that experts in "India or Germany" can be able to see operations in real time, should it be necessary for them to do so.

The renovated and expanded Mulago will require 5MW of electricity. These will be provided by standby generators. The maternal and neonatal centre has two generators able to provide 1MW.

Completion was expected in November last year, but because time was lost while moving patients to Kiruddu and Kawempe hospitals, the completion span was extended to December this year.

The supervisor said the contractor did not charge them extra fees.

The hospital renovation is being funded by the African Development Bank and Government.



The oxygen and nitrogen oxide gas production unit Furnishing hospital walls

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