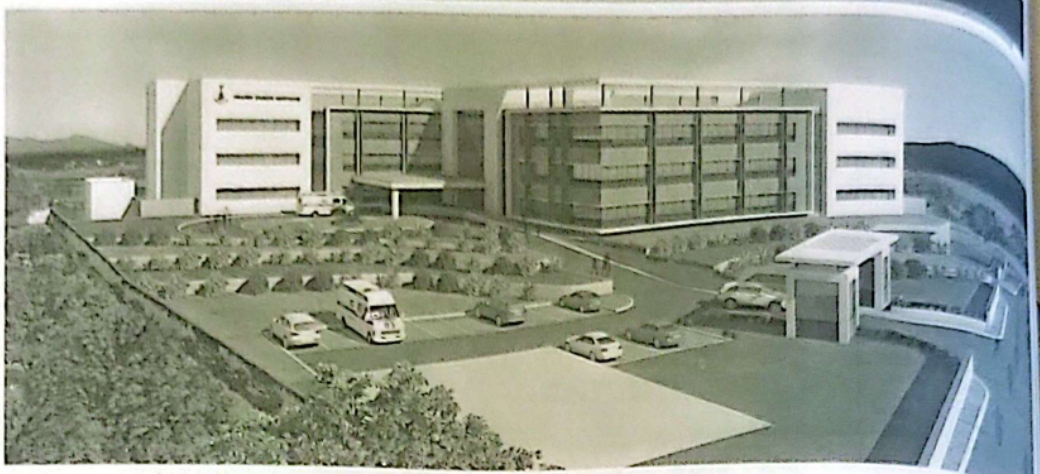
Uganda Cancer Institute

Hailing at its Mission and Vision



His Excellency
Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni
President of the Republic of Uganda



Artistic impression of the multipurpose building for Cancer Research and Training.

The Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI) is an autonomous entity providing Cancer Care treatment, research and training to the public. It was established in 1967 on Mulago Hill with 20 beds as a lymphoma Treatment Centre treating childhood lymphomas, commonly known as Burkitt's lymphoma suffered by children in Uganda.

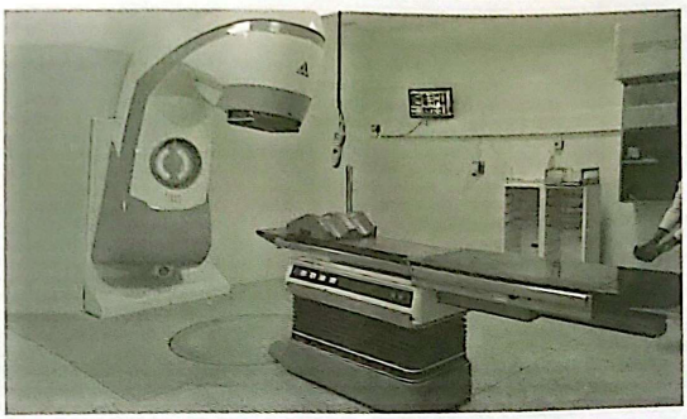
Uganda Cancer Institute attends to an average of about 200 patients daily. The Institute maintains an in-patient facility with a capacity of 80 beds. It serves patients that come from as far as Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia, Western Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan nd the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

In April 2016, the Cobalt-60 Teletherapy machine at Uganda Cancer Institute which had been in use for the previous 20 years broke down.

In January 2017, the refurbishment of the bunker started together with renovation of the entire department as part of infrastructure upgrades carried out and completed in April 2017.

Following the initiation of the refurbishment, the procurement process for the manufacture of the new machine was initiated. As stated earlier, the Government of Uganda together with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) jointly agreed to procure the new Cobalt-60 Teletherapy machine at a cost of six hundred sixty four thousand eight hundred and thirty euros (€664,830) with each contributing half of the total cost. The machine was procured, following the procedures of IAEA, from Czech Republic's multi technology company, UJP Praha that majorly deals in medical, nuclear and industrial machineries. The machine (TERABALT) was made specifically to fit in the remodelled bunker as recommended by IAEA experts.

The equipment was shipped in two parts, the bulky elements came by sea meanwhile the radiation source was brought by airfreight. All parts arriving in Uganda in AUGUST 2017. The machine installation, operation and performance qualification were done through the month of October and November 2017 in the presence of the technical team from the manufacturers, IAEA, Uganda Atomic Energy Council (AEC) and the Uganda Cancer Institute technical staff. The training of Uganda Cancer Institute staff have been done together with development of standard operating procedures (SOPs) as per the new machine requirement.



The new Radiotherapy machine



Bunker under Construction.

The new Teletherapy cobalt machines came with many capabilities compared to the previous old machine. It has a pneumatically driven source drawer used for moving the source between shielded position and treatment position. The Machine was commissioned on 19th January 2018 by Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda in presence of the Director General International Atomic Energy Agency Amb. Yukiya Amano. So far the machine treats about 80 patients every day.

The Government is constructing additional modern bunkers with six chambers which will house four modern linear accelerator teletherapy machines and two High brachytherapy machines. The construction is at 90% completion.

The benefit of these development will be improved access to radiotherapy services. Providing high tech treatment locally for services currently being received from abroad is very key. To this effect Procurement process of the first ultramodern linear accelerator (LINAC) started together with that for Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) dedicated for both diagnostic and therapeutic purposes) through funding from the African Development Bank.

The construction of the bunkers will inter-phase with the construction of the multipurpose infrastructure for the East Africa Centre of Excellence in Oncology which will transform the Uganda Cancer Institute to become the reference centre for oncology in the East African region. In addition the department will start local training programs for the different cadres and increase its participation in research work. To this effect external training of additional staff is currently ongoing. Close to 10 trainees are in various countries undertaking training at the moment who will on return become faculties for the new training program to be started in Uganda.

The Government gave out land at the Mulago Hill to construct the Multipurpose building for Cancer Research and Treatment, on the tendering process now.

The Institute has been able to purchase Pharmaceutical Refrigerated Container worth 200 Millions which is used to store and stabilize anti-cancer drugs within Uganda Cancer Institute premises. This enables UCI to ensure quality control of the drugs.

We appreciate the Government of Uganda especially His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for the continued support rendered to Uganda Cancer Institute in a bid to full fill its vision to be an Internationally recognised Centre of Excellence advancing Comprehensive Cancer Management in Africa.

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