

Surgeons' camp to treat hernias, hydroceles in Busoga sub-region

BUSOGA

By John Agaba

It is not the first time the the Association of Surgeons of Uganda will be camping in the Busoga region to rid the area of common hernias, hydroceles and other skin swellings.

The first time surgeons conducted free medical camps in the territory of the Kyabazinga (11 years ago), close to 300 subjects underwent treatment.

Now the team, armed with nurses, anaesthetists and midwives, plan to return to the region from August 21 to 24 to further cleanse it of common surgical diseases.

Working with local medics and community leaders, the team will hold camps at Jinja, Bugiri and Kamuli hospitals and Kigandalo Health Centre IV in Mayuge district, the president of the association, Dr Olivia Kituuka, said.

"It is our way of giving back to society. We have been doing this for the last 18 years," she said.

"The burden of surgical diseases in Uganda is very high. Patients who cannot afford treatment are usually left helpless. So, we want to take surgery closer to the people," Kituuka said.

"The average treatment for

general surgical conditions costs about sh1m. In private facilities it could go up to sh2m," she said.

So, the team shall be correcting surgical conditions, including breast lumps, skin swellings, hernias, hydroceles and stomach operations. It will also carry out male circumcision.

The burden of surgical diseases in Uganda is still very high

The activities will conclude with this year's Surgeons' Scientific Conference, which will congregate at the Source of the Nile Hotel on August 25.

"One of the commonest is the Busoga Hernia, which tends to occur suddenly and involves part of the intestine getting stuck in the hernia, causing that part to die if untreated," the surgeon said.

There are about 300 surgeons in Uganda, but only about 30 are expected to participate.