

NEWS

Cancer at centre of conference

By Vision Reporter

Raising awareness about cancer is expected to be at the centre of this year's doctors' conference organised by the Uganda Medical Association. The conference will be held between September 7 and 9.

Speaking to the press recently, Dr. Amos Mwaka, an oncologist, noted that the problem of cancer is huge for the Ugandan population, adding that the issue is scaring for Ugandans because they do not seem to have adequate information about it. He said because of lack of awareness, many Ugandans look at a cancer diagnosis as a death sentence.

However, Mwaka explained that cancer does not always necessarily lead to death and that with proper diagnosis and early treatment, a patient can get cured and live a full lifespan.

Mwaka also encouraged members of the public to look for information about cancer in order to learn the available measures for protection, early detection and treatment so as to remove fear.

He encouraged members of the public to go for regular screening for cancer. Screening services are offered in major hospitals including Mulago, Nsambya, St. Mary's Lacor and Mbale.

One of the activities preceding the conference will be a free health camp at Kiruddu Clinic in Makindye on Tuesday September 5.

According to Dr. Fred Bisso, the president of the Uganda Medical Association, at the camp, members of the public will be screened for non-communicable diseases such as high blood pressure, heart conditions, diabetes and cancers.

People will also be screened for infections that lead to cancer such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis B.

Doctors' conference

Bisso explained that the doctors' conference aimed at bringing together doctors from all over the country to discuss issues related to the health system, share knowledge and improve their skills.

He added that between 300 to 500 doctors are expected to attend the conference that will be held under the theme 'promoting healthy lives'.

Bisso disclosed that the conference will comprise several activities including a scientific conference, a medical tourism exhibition where over 40 hospitals from India will showcase their services. And a round table discussion where Ugandan doctors will discuss with their Indian counterparts ways in which they can improve their skills.

