

Kabaka launches sickle cell disease foundation

KAMPALA

By Jeff Andrew Lule

An organisation to promote awareness about the sickle cell disease has been launched.

The Uganda Sickle Cell Rescue Foundation (USCRF) was launched by the Kabaka of Buganda, Ronald Mwendu Mutebi on Tuesday.

Situated at BMK building located in BMK near Hotel Africana in Kampala, USCRF was founded in 2013 by the proprietor of BMK Group of Companies, Haji Bulaimu Muwanga Kibirige and Maj. Lukiah Mulumba of the US Air Force.

The foundation is a non-profit organisation aimed at economically empowering people suffering from sickle cell disease and reducing stigma in Uganda.

The Kabaka, accompanied by his wife, the Nabagereka Sylvia Nagginda and Katikkiro Peter Mayiga were received by Kibirige.

Kibirige explained that the foundation is a reception and diagnosis centre for sickle cell patients. He said any serious case is referred to Mulago Hospital.

Kibirige said they focus on strengthening awareness and



The Kabaka (third-left) with Haji Ibrahim Kibirige (second-left) after launching BMK House and the Sickle Cell Rescue Foundation on Tuesday in Kampala. Photo by Meddie Musisi

testing for the condition.

It is supported by BMK Group of Companies, AGT Group, Roofings Group and other well-wishers.

Kibirige said the foundation had 50,000 registered members, including well-wishers who also have sickle cell patients.

"We hold an annual conference where we invite both local and international specialists and

counsellors to share knowledge on the disease. The conference always hosts about 3,000 participants," Kibirige said.

He said previously, many sickle cell patients would suffer silently but have now come out openly because of sensitisation.

The Kabaka commended Kibirige for his vision towards creating awareness about sickle cell disease

and supporting the victims. The foundation was one of the key sponsors of the recent Kabaka Birthday Day Run, aimed at creating awareness and supporting sickle cell patients

According to statistics, for every seven people in Uganda, at least one has the sickle cell trait and out of every 150 people, at least one has the disease.