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UPMB@60

Praised. Dr Bildard Baguma, the JMS executive director, says UPMB is carrying out distinct health services that are aimed at improving people's health conditions.

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UPMB lauded for promoting Church's healing ministry

The Joint Medical Stores (JMS) has applauded the Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau (UPMB) for providing quality health services and continuing the healing ministry of the Church.

JMS is a joint mission health unit that was formed as a joint venture by UPMB and the Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau as a supply chain arm that serves more than 600 health facilities.

Dr Bildard Baguma, the JMS executive director, says UPMB is carrying out distinct health services that are aimed at improving people's health conditions.

"We are grateful for your support and we hope that by working together we shall continue our mission of improving the health of the Ugandan population," he says.

According to Dr Baguma, JMS' role is to supply medicines and other medical equipment to all accredited health facilities.

"Over the years, we have striven to procure right quality drugs and other medical equipment which we store in safe warehouses such that they reach the final consumer while still safe. To effectively do this, we



have technicians and we run a fully-fledged medical equipment workshop," says Dr Baguma.

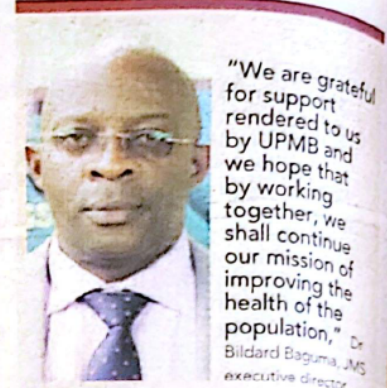
He adds that they have an internal quality control laboratory which helps them to keep right quality products up to the time they are delivered to their respective health units.

Dr Baguma says JMS is mandated to offer services of installation and maintenance of the different medical equipment that they supply.

"We provide capacity building in the area of supply chain because most medical workers are good in their primary role of treating patients but they are not very good at

managing equipment, so our role is to bridge this gap and ensure a smooth running in different health facilities," he adds.

Dr Baguma observes that they are also tasked with delivering medical equipment and drugs to different accredited health facilities as well as providing the same ser-



vices to some donor programmes such as the Global Fund.

However, he notes that JMS is faced with a challenge of unscrupulous actors in the pharmaceutical industry who smuggle drugs and other health equipment into the country and sell them at a relatively cheaper price which makes them face unfair competition.

He appeals to the National Drug Authority to put stringent rules on all products entering the country so as to curb down the smuggling of drugs and other medical facilities.