

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS HOLD EXPO IN KAMPALA

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Companies dealing in manufacturing and sale of medical equipment from Egypt, Kenya, India, Middle East, Rwanda and Uganda held a medical technological machinery expo in Kampala last week.

Speaking at the event held at Uganda Manufacturers Association show grounds from February 9 to 11, David Obluk, the head of medical equipment specialised projects, Crown health-care, a Kenyan company dealing in medical, dental and laboratory equipment said all the products they are exhibiting are European Union approved.

According to him, machines such as the Mars 6 digital x-ray with Fuji film with cassette reader and Dry pix printer eliminate need for x-ray films and are user-friendly for Ugandan medical facilities since they use regular power but sometimes need power backups.

He, however, said the exhibited medical equipment are meant for different departments. Notable among these are; modern movable x-ray machine that can be taken to a patient who is in a critical condition and helps in identifying where a fracture is or tell the position of a baby and due date.

The medical suppliers say they are bringing life-saving equipment now because they are responding to change since people understand the need to have routine checkups and people used to be flown out of the country for treatment and medical procedures such as cancer screening and treatment but with modern equipment, the rate has now reduced.

Lena Kanannura, the communication officer

of CoRSU Children's rehabilitation centre in Kisubi, Wakiso District, said what they are exhibiting are prostrate legs and hands made in their orthopaedic workshop at the hospital for disabled people.

"The hospital also does physio-therapy after surgical operations, provides back belts called sacrolumber for doing exercise, offers plastic surgery and equipment for treating burns and cleft lips," she said.

Deepti Pant, the joint director international affairs of Associate Chambers of Commerce India, who organised the event, said there are hospitals in the country but the necessary machinery is lacking and wondered how medical facilities treat patients.

"What is being exhibited here is a wide range of hospital medical devices, surgical equipment that will meet the platform for local hospitals, private clinics, health centres and diagnostic

centres," she said.

According to her, all the participating countries and companies whose products are being exhibited were first scrutinised by Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) to determine if they meet the required standards before being allowed to take part.

She said the participating countries are working closely with the government, Uganda Medical Association, Uganda National Chamber of Commerce, Indian High Commission and National Private Hospitals Association to improve



An exhibitor explains how medical equipment works at the medical machinery expo in Kampala last week. PHOTO BY ALEX ESAGALA.

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