

you people are going to another criminally for attempting to cause financial loss to the Government. You are in a ring, a racket. There

In 2014, the Government compensated Kazibwe and Magumba for their combined land of 74 acres in

They are part of a total of sh600b for of raw material for

Manufacture cancer drugs, First Lady asks Quality Chemicals Limited

By Eddie Ssejjoba

The First Lady, Mrs Janet Museveni, has invited Cipla Quality Chemical Industries Limited to venture into the production of cancer chemotherapy drugs.

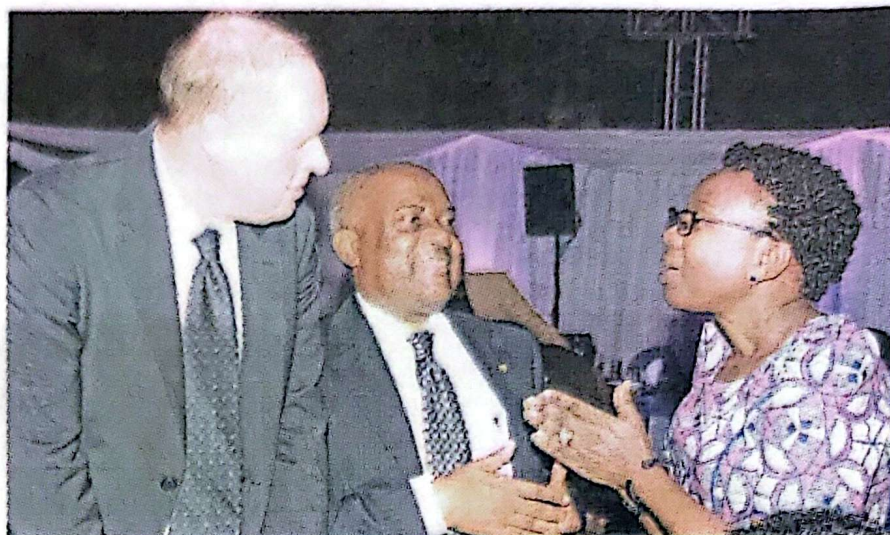
The pharmaceutical company based in Luzira, Kampala currently produces anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs for people living with HIV/AIDS, as well as anti-malarials and hepatitis medicines.

"We are grateful to Cipla for honouring our initial invitation to manufacture ARVs in Uganda. We now extend another invitation to manufacture cancer chemotherapy drugs," Mrs Museveni said.

The message was contained in her speech read by the health minister, Dr Jane Ruth Aceng, at the forum on the 'burden of cancer', held at the Kampala Serena Hotel on Tuesday.

The First Lady said the Government spends sh4.5b per year on cancer chemotherapeutics, with a significant proportion lost due to importation costs.

Mrs Museveni, however, said the Government was pleased with the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) for the supply chain improvement of



Nevin Bradford, the CEO of Cipla Quality Chemical Industries Ltd; Katongole and Aceng having a chat at the Serena Hotel Kampala. Photo by Eddie Ssejjoba

anti-cancer drugs to address challenges faced by cancer patients in Uganda.

According to her statement, the risk of cancer had increased overall and for cancers such as prostate and breast, the number of new cases had steadily increased by up to 5% annually, over the past 20 years.

The First Lady attributed the increase to the changing lifestyles, increased life expectancy and the HIV epidemic yet access to specialised cancer care "is still a major problem in Uganda".

"Of the estimated 70,000 new cancer cases per year in Uganda, only 45,000 of them

were seen at the Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI) in 2016. This is unacceptable," she said.

The function was attended by Samina Vaziralli, the executive vice-chairperson of Cipla Ltd and granddaughter of Cipla's founder Dr Khwaja Abdul Hamidi; Emmanuel Katongole, the executive chairperson of Cipla Quality Chemicals Ltd, MPs and science researchers.

Prof. Charles Olweny, the chancellor of Mbarara University of Science and Technology, and was the guest speaker, assured the country that the new radiotherapy machine had been serviced and had started working again.