

Joint Medical Store launches

By Jacqueline Emodok

During its 38 years of existence, the Joint Medical Store (JMS) clientele for pharmaceutical and medical supplies has grown which has in turn increased the need for warehousing space. In order to match up to this demand, JMS started renting warehouse space outside their facilities five years ago. However, this has been a problem because the warehousing facilities outside are not designed for the storage of pharmaceuticals and as a result there were several modifications made to make them fit the necessary requirements for storage of pharmaceuticals.

Such modifications included adjusting the warehouses to humid conditions and temperatures for example for cold rooms that store vaccines. Despite the modifications, the fact is that it is cumbersome to inculcate them after a building has been put up and instead better to have them as part of the building initially.

Consequently, JMS expanded its own warehouse in Kampala to offer 2604 pallet positions and five levels of racks among other modifications.

Customisation protocol
The new facility is fitted with



Prof. A.M Odonga warehouse in Kampala, Joint Medical Store's new facility in Kampala

insulation and energy efficient wind driven fans to maintain appropriate storage conditions for the pharmaceuticals. It also features calibrated temperature monitoring devices called i-buttons. These ensure that temperature and humidity are monitored daily at specific locations determined by the results temperature mapping. It also houses the quality control laboratory for analysing different forms of pharmaceutical products and sundries using a variety of

validated pharmaceutical techniques and methods. This guarantees quality of products in the JMS supply chain. "The procedures for quality analysis used here are well formulated conforming to the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Systems," Emmanuel Higieny, the director of JMS, says. The idea of JMS conforming to the ISO 9001:2015, comes after the institution was awarded the ISO 9001:2015 certification by the Bureau Veritas, in recognition of

its ability to meet the international standards in quality and social responsibility. The customised warehouse also offers appropriate storage conditions which are fundamental for the preservation of the therapeutic and economic value of pharmaceuticals. "With this warehouse we expect improved operational efficiency since all medical supplies will be under one roof," Joanita Namutebi Lwanyaga, the director of customers services and company pharmacist, says.

Warehouse security

Aside from storage conditions the security aspect is also important and the warehouse has an alarm system with motion sensors to alert when there are attempts of unauthorised access. Others include: multiple high definition CCTV cameras and monitors, biometric access control systems at warehouse entrance, a fire detection and fighting system to ensure rapid response.

This modern warehouse has been named Prof. A.M Odonga warehouse after reknown surgeon, Prof. Alexandra Mwa Odonga, who was one of the founder trustees of JMS, from 1979 when the facility was formed.

Who is Prof. A.M Odonga?

"He worked tirelessly to ensure that JMS becomes what it is today and was a trustee until 2015, when the bureau that had nominated him decided that because of his advanced stage, he should go into retirement," Dr Bildard Baguma, the executive director of JMS, says. Baguma adds that as a trustee, Odonga was passionate about quality and always tasked the administration and staff to procure, store and distribute quality medicines to Ugandans. This memory of the doctor does not come as a surprise for a man recognised for his long and distinguished life of service to humanity.

JMS
JOINT MEDICAL STORE

Congratulations!

GSK Pharmaceuticals Kenya Ltd wish to Congratulate our partner Joint Medical Stores towards achieving the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System Accreditation and completion of a New Warehouse

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Heartiest Congratulations...!!!

JMS
JOINT MEDICAL STORE

For Achieving Exemplary Milestones...
Spanning 38 Years of Untiring Service to Ugandans

BEST WISHES...
for Many More Years to Come
From...

Rene Industries

Rene Pharmacy

customised warehouse

THE NEW FACILITY IS FITTED WITH INSULATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENT WIND DRIVEN FANS TO MAINTAIN APPROPRIATE STORAGE CONDITIONS FOR THE PHARMACEUTICALS.

Odonga was one of Uganda's first surgeons after graduating from Makerere University medical school in 1949 and served as medical doctor, surgeon and professor of surgery. He was also the former dean for Makerere medical school and dean of the school of dentistry at Nairobi University.

Throughout his career, he loved the people and his belief was that a true doctor is one for whom medicine is a true calling and is dedicated to relieving human suffering.

Odonga is also credited for a number of publications that have been influential in the medical discipline, including *Makerere University medical school 1924-1974* and *Practical medical Ethics* published in 1995 and also served in many church-founded institutions, such as Mengo Senior School, where he was the board chair for 30 years

and the Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau.

Odonga who was born in Gulu district also wrote two books of Luo fables and the Luo-English dictionary published in 2005. He underscored the importance of children speaking and writing their mother tongues emphasising the wealth that African cultures offer in their upbringing.

Odonga passed on last year and survived by his wife Janet Odonga and eight children. "We felt that the only tribute we could pay to him was to name this warehouse after him, so that the world can know that he made a significant contribution not only to JMS, but also to the health services in this country generally," Baguma says.

JMS history
The Joint Medical Store (JMS) has



President Yoweri Museveni touring the Mbarara Joint Medical Store flanked by Elioda Tumwesigye, the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation (left) and other district leaders

been in existence for 38 years with the sole aim of supplying pharmaceuticals and health supplies to health units accredited by the Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau (UCMB) and Uganda Protestant Bureau (UPMB).

These health units are commonly referred to as mission health units and have their genesis in 1979 after the Uganda-Tanzania liberation war that led to the overthrow of former president of Uganda. During this war there were many victims who needed

medical assistance for the injuries sustained and also relief items like food and water. This attracted a number of donors that decided to specifically support the different church units (The Roman Catholic and Protestants). "They were doing it individually with some were supporting more than one church unit but they lacked a distinct coordinated structure," Dr. Bildard Baguma the executive director of JMS narrates.

This realisation made the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of Uganda through their medical arms (the Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau and Uganda Protestant Bureau respectively) get together and make the decision to set up the Joint Medical Store. It was formed as a trusteeship co-owned by the two medical arms.

"This was so that it could support the supply chain for the mission health units; to ensure that they get good quality products in time and also coordinate donations," Baguma explains.

In the case where there were no donations, JMS was tasked to find medical supplies at reasonable prices. Presently JMS qualifies pharmaceuticals and medical supplies in line with its mission of To supply medicines, medical equipment and related healthcare services and provide training of assured quality to the people of Uganda at affordable prices assuring a preferential position for health units accredited to the Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau (UCMB) and Uganda Protestant Bureau (UPMB).

Over the 38 years JMS has grown and now serves health units accredited by the Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau (UCMB) Uganda Protestant Bureau (UPMB) and even brought on board the Uganda Muslim Medical Bureau (UMMB) and the Uganda Orthodox Medical Bureau (UOMB).



International Forwarding - NonStop

The Management and Staff of Flitlinks International Limited congratulate Joint Medical Store (JMS) on this double achievement of ISO 9001:2015 accreditation and opening of a new warehouse.

