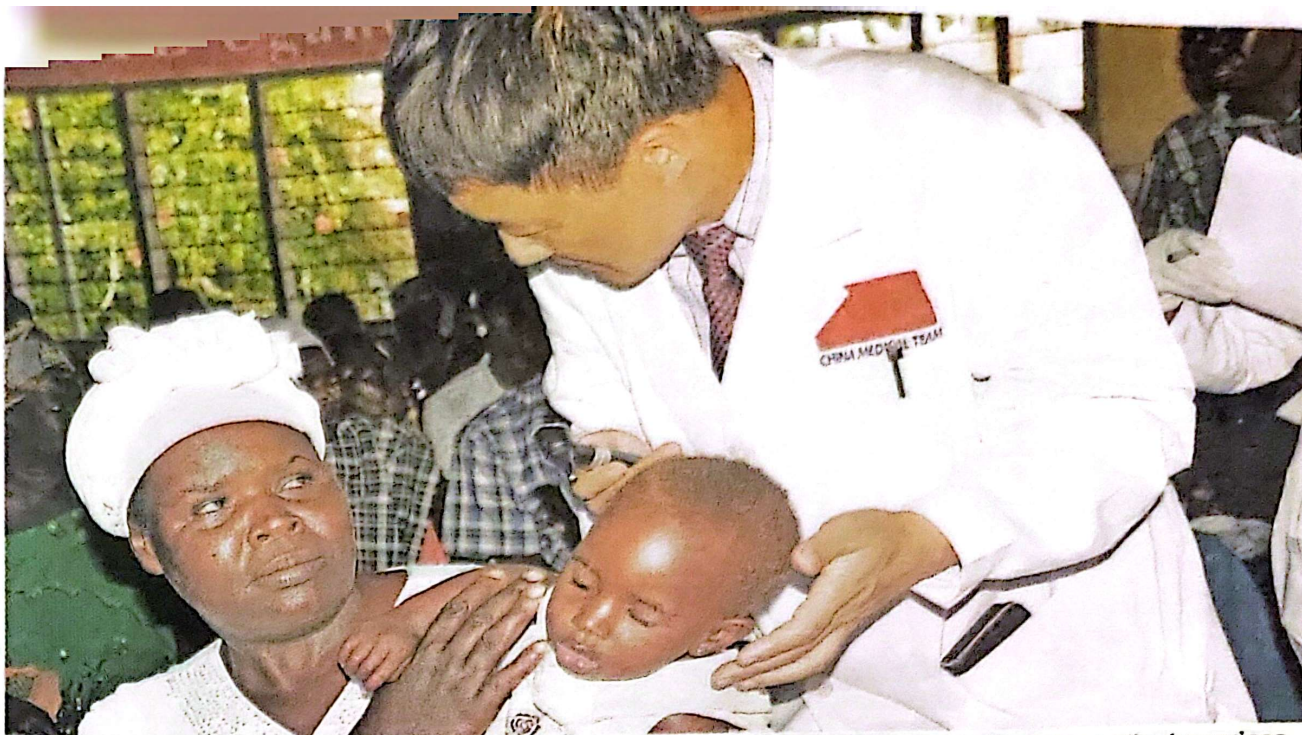




Cong Linhai (right) leader of the Chinese medical team examines a child patient during the free medical services at Kapeeka Secondary School on Sunday. Photo by Francis Emorut

Chinese medical team treats over 500 patients

By Taddeo Bwambale

Over 500 residents of Kapeeka in Nakaseke district received free treatment offered by a team of Chinese medical experts during a medical camp held on Sunday. The medical camp was organised by ZTE, a Chinese telecommunications and information communications firm and China CMC Engineering Co. Ltd, a construction company.

The residents, who turned up for the check-up at Nakaseke Secondary School were treated for illnesses ranging from digestive diseases to eye infections, sexually transmitted infections and urological infections.

China's ambassador to Uganda, Zheng Zhuqiang, said the medical camp was an important mark of the co-operation between China and

Uganda in health.

"Medical teams have made a great contribution to relations between China and Uganda. They are executing the Chinese government's mission of promoting ties," he said.

Zhuqiang, who described China-Uganda relations as warm and cordial, said medical co-operation was one of the most effective ways of enhancing the relationship between the two countries.

He encouraged more Chinese firms to organise similar health camps or other projects.

Since 1983, the Chinese government has dispatched over 170 medics to work in Uganda. They were initially sent to Jinja Referral Hospital, but since 2013, they are deployed to the China-Uganda Friendship Hospital, which was built with support from China.

Cong Linhai, the head of the

Chinese medical team, said he was pleased to offer free consultation and treatment to less privileged people in rural areas.

"I feel a sense of gratitude giving back to the community. I will volunteer once again if opportunity arises," Linhai said.

Yu Bin, ZTE's East Africa region representative, said Nakaseke district was chosen for the free medical camp to benefit residents living near the Liao Shen Industrial Park.

"As a state-owned company, our duty is not only to make profit, but also to promote relations. We want to grow with the local community," Bin, whose firm set up in Uganda 12 years ago, said.

Bao Yihong, the China CAMC Engineering Co. Ltd. Uganda office representative, a state-owned EPC project firm, said the health camp was a sign of

commitment to promoting local development.

Johnstone Batamanya, a 63-year-old resident of Kapeeka, said he was happy to receive treatment for an ailment he had been battling for the last two years.

"I have paralysis in my right arm and a persistent urge to pass urine every few minutes. I have visited different health centres without help, but now I have hope that I will be well soon," he said.

Mary Nabunya, 61, said: "I have had a persistent cough for a long time. I visited a health centre and was told I might have tuberculosis, but tests were negative. I am happy to receive treatment at last," she said.

Ignatius Koomu, the Nakaseke district chairperson, thanked the Chinese companies for organising the health camps.