

Mak varsity dental school reopens

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KAMPALA: Makerere University has reopened its dental teaching hospital and school months after it was closed for not meeting the requisite standards.

The institution says the facility, which has been shifted from Mulago to its main campus, is the largest in the country and boasts of modern equipment that will be used not only to train dental students, but also to treat patients.

Last month, a joint inspection team from the East African Community Secretariat recommended the closure of the dental school.

The team recommended that Makerere University should close the dental department at its Mulago-based College of Health Sciences and stop new entrants from enrolling for their course.

The investigations

The National Medical and Dental Board has been inspecting several medical schools in the region, including Makerere University and Kampala International University, which are the only universities in Uganda offering dental teaching programmes.

Speaking to the media yesterday, Dr Muhammad Kiggundu, the manager of communications and international relations at Makerere University, said the biggest dental school in Uganda has reopened after securing modern targets.

"We have the modern applicable technology and we are ready to address the challenges of dental training not only in Uganda but in the region, and we want to allay the fears of whoever thought that Makerere is not going to admit [dental] students this year," he said.

Currently the school has more than 150 students.

Dental camp

The head of the dentistry department at Makerere University, Dr Annet Kuteesa, said as a way of giving back to the public, the school has organised a one-week dental camp at the university, which started on Monday, providing dental checkups and emergency treatment at subsidised rates.

BACKGROUND

Condemned. A July 1 report signed by the chairpersons of the East African Community medical and dental practitioners councils stated that the school did not meet the minimum requirements to train students. The report also revealed that most of the equipment at the school was not operational, casting doubt on the quality of dental surgeons produced at the institution.