

Makerere gets funding for teaching hospital

By Agnes Nantambi and Juliet Waiswa

Makerere University has secured funding for the construction of a modern teaching hospital.

The construction is slated to begin in September on the university land located in Katalemwa.

The revelation was made by the university's deputy vice-chancellor, William Bazeyo, during his tour of the Lung Institute at Mulago Hospital.

"We have been training our doctors at Mulago Hospital, but now that it has become specialised, we need our own training hospital," he said.

"We have been working with the education ministry and other partners and we are grateful to the education minister, Mrs Janet Museveni, who has got us a funder, who will support the building and equipping of the training hospital for the university's medical school," he added.

Prof. Bazeyo revealed that the hospital project will cost \$200m (sh750b). He said the money is being extended to the university as a grant.

According to Bazeyo, the hospital will house schools of nursing, medicine, dentistry and pharmacy and will be equipped with laboratories and specialised services, such as X-rays, among others. The hospital will also have accommodation facilities for the students, among others.

"This hospital will train undergraduates and postgraduates and also cater for health research," he revealed.



Prof Bazeyo speaking to Dr Sabrina Kitaka (second-right) from the School of Medicine. Right is Dr Birabwa Male, the Mulago Hospital deputy executive director and Dr Rebecca Nantanda (centre). Photo by Agnes Nantambi

BETWEEN THE LINES

Prof. Bazeyo said the hospital project will cost \$200m (sh750b). He said the money is being extended to the university in form of a grant.

Prof. Bazeyo revealed that at Mulago, they had a challenge of training undergraduates and specialists.

"We needed space to train all other specialties in large numbers to create capacity for the nation," he said.

Prof. Charles Ibingira, the

principal of the College of Health Sciences, said the teaching hospital has come at the right time when Mulago has become too small to accommodate the big number of students.

"Mulago has served us well, but we needed to expand our training facilities," Pro. Ibingira said, adding that the training hospital will greatly supplement other training hospitals.

Innovation centre

In addition to providing specialised training for the country and the region, Prof. Ibingira said the hospital

will also act as a retouch and innovation ground for the region to address health problems.

He said, "This specialised hospital is coming at a time when the lack of specialists at district level stands at 81%, while that at the regional hospital stands at 63%."

"We have few specialists. Our current admission stands at 25%, but with this specialised training hospital, we shall be able to train at all levels, including masters level, PhD and fellowship training, which will increase our capacity to conduct research," Prof. Ibingira said.