

NMB hands over delivery kits worth 15.3m/- to support maternal health in Kigamboni DC

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank has handed over an assortment of 750 delivery kits worth 15.3m/- to support maternal health in Kigamboni District, Dar es Salaam reaffirming its commitment to boosting quality health services delivery provided to expectant women and their newborn babies.

The donated items included 500gm cotton wool pads, disposable mackintosh, maternity pads, surgical gloves, scalpel blades, plastic cord clamps, cloth materials for new-borns, auto-disposable syringes and chromic catgut among others.

Handing over the donation yesterday in Kigamboni yesterday, NMB Bank Dar es Salaam Zonal Manager Dismas Prosper said the donated items will compliment and accelerate government's efforts to provide quality reproductive health services, and seeks to contribute to the overall well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

Prosper noted that the bank has prioritized the

health sector among its key priority areas in its Corporate Social Investment (CSI) strategy as it believes good health is a catalyst to sustainable development.

"NMB Bank has for the last seven years set aside one percent of the bank's Profit After Tax (PAT) to finance various CSI initiatives as part of our commitment to support sustainable development in areas where our bank operates. Today, we are pleased to handover delivery kits worth 15.3m/- and we believe our efforts will go a long way in saving the lives of both expectant mothers and their newborn babies," he said.

Kigamboni District Administrative Secretary (DAS) Pendo Mahalu during the event said her district had during this year conducted a needs assessment survey spearheaded by the District Commissioner Halima Bulembo that found that the district needs around 8,500 delivery kits each year to cater for expectant women and their newborn babies.

She underscored that the support provided by NMB

Bank had come at a very opportune time assuring the bank that her district will efficiently utilize the delivery kits donated for the benefit of all needy expectant women.

"As a district, our relationship with NMB Bank has gone beyond being development partners since the bank is always there for us whenever we need it. Good health requires timely and efficient delivery of health care services. We are so thankful and believe these delivery kits donated will help to put a smile on many expectant mothers who have been forced to dig deep into their pockets to buy these essential kits," she stressed.

Kigamboni District Hospital Medical Officer Dr Mohammed Mnyau said the donated items will be a big relief to expectant women in Kigamboni district since the delivery kits are costly and thanked the bank for its contribution.

"At times the lack of delivery kits causes unnecessary delays in service provision. These kits provided by NMB Bank will now enable us to



NMB Bank's Dar es Salaam zone manager Dismas Prosper (3rd L) hands over medical supplies to Kigamboni District Administrative Secretary, Upendo Mahalu (3rd R) donated by the bank for pregnant mothers in Kigamboni District hospital. The event took place in Dar es Salaam on December 13, 2023. Others are Kigamboni Municipality Mayor Ernest Ndamo (2nd R), Kigamboni Municipality Director Erasto Kiwale (R), Irene Masaki, NMB Bank's and government business relationship manager (L) and NMB Bank's Kigamboni branch manager Rehema Kasilima (2nd L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

provide instant services when required. On average, our hospital received between 5000 - 10,000 expectant mothers each year," Dr Mnyau said.

He during the event called upon other

development partners to donate more delivery kits to enable the district to realize its set target of collecting 8,500 kits this year.

"As of today, we have been able to collect around 3,500 delivery kits bring-

ing the district's gap to 5,000 kits now. I would like to take this time to call upon all companies operating in Kigamboni District to come and support this life-saving noble cause," he said.

Graduates called on to pursue further studies

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

GRADUATES have been urged to go for further studies as a way of updating their knowledge and skills.

Prof Eliab Opiyo, Vice Chancellor of St Joseph University in Tanzania (SJUIT) made the remarks on Wednesday while officiating the 16th graduation ceremony of the university in Dar es Salaam.

He noted that graduates, who do not go for further studies, end up becoming obsolete. "If you stop learning, you also stop living," he said, noting that quality education puts emphasis on building the mind, practical skills, culture and religion.

Prof Opiyo, said with the ongoing scientific development and challenges, scholars have a great opportunity to give answers; hence

the urge to grab further learning opportunities.

"It is an undeniable fact that the more you study, the more you see the challenges in our communities that require additional knowledge, skills and competence to solve problems. This graduation should be a catalyst to start planning for further studies in the near future," he said.

He added: "I therefore urge you

to study continuously and keep yourselves updated with the new technology and scientific technology in order to provide the best update quality services to your clients." According to him, any graduate that would need assistance that can be found from the university, will not hesitate to provide.

President of the University Council Dr Thomson Ananth insisted on graduates' hard work, dedication and discipline as key pillars that will make them productive citizens in utilizing their knowledge to serve the society and industry.

"Today, you will leave our gates and head out into the world. The university has prepared you as best as it could but what will elevate you to greatness is gentleness, frugality and humility. Remember the systems and discipline you had learned and trained at SJUIT. Your knowledge and skills will be

of value if you respect and practice your discipline and systematic approach," he said.

He added: "Remember the knowledge and skills that you gathered in a systematic approach. Through this approach, it is our hope that the hard work and education you demonstrated while at the university will make you a protective citizen that you will use the knowledge to serve the society and industry." According to him, what will elevate the graduates despite the university's great emphasis in building graduates capacity in addressing emerging challenges in the world, highlighting the university's belief that with education provision, graduates' discipline is also vital in bringing out solutions upon the challenges.

"On behalf of the university council, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the government

and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in particular for the support towards the growth and development of the university," he said.

He concluded: "My gratitude goes to the university management and staff for their dedication in running the university. It is through the management that the most of the things mentioned above, not limited to have been made possible. To the graduates, I wish you all the best as you face the world," he concluded.

SJUIT focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and Health and Allied Sciences that has approved 416 graduates in this year in bachelor of engineering, doctor of medicine, Bachelor of Science with education, ordinary diploma in engineering, pharmaceutical sciences, nursing and midwifery.

JKCI now do transcatheter aortic valve implantation procedure for the elderly

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

HEAVY investment made by the government has made the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) to easily do transcatheter aortic valve implantation procedure (TAVI) for the elderly aged between 75 and 80 years.

Dr John Jingu (pictured), permanent secretary in the ministry of Health made the remarks yesterday in Dar es Salaam, when visited three JKCI patients, who had their coronary artery valve replaced with a small hole without opening the chest, which is the first in the country and second in Sub-Saharan Africa.

He said that the move is after ongoing investments made in the sector, including the allocation of 5bn/- for the training of specialists and super specialists abroad, who are among the successful TAVI.

"Next year, 10.9bn/- will be allocated to 700 specialists from different hospitals in the country, including JKCI, for the training of specialists in specialized and specialist services," said Dr Jingu.

He aligned the benefits of investment in the sector, which has come from JKCI is an income of 920m/- for the period from July to Decem-



ber, this year, due to income from 3,000 patients who were treated from inside and outside about 20 countries.

"This investment saves lives, the cost is not only for us but also for neighboring countries, and there are also those who come from outside the continent of Africa. We will continue to launch services like this, the TAVI service. When I did research I found out that it is done in South Africa and here in Tanzania, in Sub-Saharan Africa," said Dr Jingu.

JKCI Executive Director Dr Peter Kisenge said three adults between the ages of 75 and 80 have received the service, for approximately one and a half to two hours per person

and the cost is 80m/- for each patient.

Cardiologist, Dr Tatizo Waane said that the TAVI service reduces the harm to the patient, because it takes less than two days, treatment and the patient is discharged.

Cardiologist, from Stancare hospital in India, Dr Ashishkumar Mandalay, together with his colleagues, said that the implementation of the TAVI service and cooperation with JKCI, has increased their experience.

He said that the presence of modern medical equipment has made the service successful, also saying that the local champions' skills helped the surgery to be done easily.

The Nature Conservancy

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) mission is to protect the lands and waters upon which all life depends. In Tanzania, TNC is working with different stakeholders to achieve community development through sustainable and equal fisheries resources management.

On the Tanzanian shore of Lake Tanganyika, TNC is empowering local communities and leadership to implement community-led conservation initiatives to advance the conservation process of resources of Lake Tanganyika and increase people's livelihoods opportunities. In that regard, to reduce the fishing pressure on Lake Tanganyika, TNC wishes to support local population develop alternative livelihoods options through establishment of Community Conservation Banks (COCOBA).

The COCOBA model aims to support efforts being implemented by various conservation partners by way of reducing pressure on natural resources and providing alternative economic activities. COCOBAs allow members living around natural resources such as forests, marine parks, and other conservation areas to access loans to establish conservation-friendly businesses, such as beekeeping, chicken farming, tree planting, etc.

Technically, the model aims to help people living in these areas access technical and financial services to initiate and operate sustainable family income-generating activities that do not harm the environment.

TNC is seeking a consultant to facilitate establishment and operationalization of Community Conservancy Banks (COCOBA) and training of trainers in eight (8) villages in Nkasi District Council.

The aim of this consultancy is to help alleviate pressure on natural resources and promote alternative but regenerative economic activities for the communities by facilitating access to loans for the establishment of conservation-friendly livelihood activities.

Interested and technically vendors are encouraged to reach out to TNC to get the full request for proposal at e-mail: procurement.lake@tnc.org.

The deadline to submit proposals is set on 29th December 2023 at 10:00 am EAT.