

Digital x-rays to be supplied in hospitals

THE government has halted use of analogy X-ray machines and has already floated tenders for purchase of digital devices to be distributed all over the country.

The Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government), Mr Kassim Majaliwa, told the National Assembly yesterday that the aim was to transform the services to cope with modern technology.

He noted that the exercise would go hand-in-hand with equipping mortuaries with modern facilities, adding that various tenders have also been floated to that effect.

Mr Majaliwa was responding to questions by Mr Ally Keissy (Nkasi North-CCM), who questioned about delayed improvement of public hospitals in Namanyere, Mpanda district, Katavi Region which lacked a modern mortuary facility.

He noted that the hospital lacked refrigeration facilities for preservation of dead bodies and there was no any other hospital nearby for the residents to use as an alternative.

Ms Grace Kiwelu (Chadema) demanded clarification from the government as to when five refrigerators which are out of use at Refractory Hospital in Kilimanjaro Region would be

put back to work.

She said the hospital that caters for the medical 'refuge' for the whole region was left with just one refrigerator, which was not enough and perhaps posed as serious threat in case of unexpected breakdown.

In her basic question, Ms Ester Bulaya (Special Seats - CCM) noted the facility (refrigerator) at Bunda District Hospital was out of service, forcing people to transport dead bodies to Mwanza for preservation. She wanted to know when will the facility be restored.

Responding to the questions, Mr Majaliwa noted that it was the government's intention to see that all the matters raised by the MPs were dealt with in the shortest time possible.

He said tenders to improve medical services on that front had been floated and that all the hospitals with similar challenges would be dealt with accordingly.

In the recent past, Tumbi Referral Hospital in Coast Region resumed mortuary services after the government had donated a new refrigeration system. The new system has the capacity to preserve 16 bodies at a time.

Tumbi Referral Hospital Acting Medical Officer, Dr Bryson Lothi, was quoted recently as saying that resumption of



MR Majaliwa

the refrigeration system would make a big difference in terms of the quality of services offered at the hospital.

Dr Lothi said before the system was revived, they could only keep bodies in the mortuary for just a day.

He said lack of the facility forced relatives to transfer and keep the bodies of their loved ones to other hospitals during burial arrangements.

He said bodies were normally shifted to Amana, Temeke and Muhimbili hospitals in Dar es Salaam, the arrangement which caused a lot of inconvenience and equally expensive.

He said the hospital still needed another refrigeration system for preservation of bodies of road accident fatalities along the Morogoro-Segera highway, where many road accidents were recorded.