

Firm donates 400 Hepatitis testing kits to Tanzania

**From DAILY NEWS
Reporter in Arusha**

STANDARD Diagnostics Africa Limited has donated to Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar 400 Hepatitis B and C testing kits valued at over 30m/- which were handed over to Zanzibar President, Dr Ali Mohammed Shein, here.

The company's Assistant Executive Director, Mr Philip Sawe, presented the rapid diagnostic kits to President Shein during the ongoing 12th bi-annual conference of the Association of Pathologists of East, Central and Southern Africa (APECSA) taking place in Arusha.

The Hepatitis rapid testing kits will be used by the health departments in the mainland and Zanzibar in efforts to raise awareness on the disease which, according to Mr Sawe, should be treated as a serious form of infection that could be more deadly than even Tuberculosis and HIV, even though it is less known.

The testing kits will be used for screening and checking up laboratory personnel who are always in the frontline in the

war against diseases and are at greater risk of acquiring infection in the course of their routine work.

Receiving the kits, President Shein said, "These testing kits will go a long way to providing this essential requirement."

"The only best way to dealing with Hepatitis is to diagnose the disease at its earliest stage possible, because it has no cure though there are vaccines to protect people from contacting it in the first place," said Mr Sawe, whose firm also made free distribution of dengue fever rapid testing kits to delegates of the APESCA conference here.

SD Africa, based in Dar es Salaam, is a division of Standard Diagnostics Inc of South Korea. Organized by the Association of Pathologists of Tanzania (APT), the conference has brought together the Association of Pathologists of East, Central and Southern Africa; the East African Division of the International Academy of Pathology; the British Division of the International Academy of Pathology and the Royal College of Pathologists - UK.

"I believe pathologists

should take a leading role in the delivery of quality health care services in all disciplines of medicine" said Dr Shein, challenging the conference to come up with proposals and strategies on how good laboratory practice can adequately support efforts to provide optimal quality health care services and clinical management of patients.

The president reiterated the importance of training pathologists hand in hand with developing services in health institutions, such as provision of modern and well equipped laboratories and trained personnel.

He called for greater attention and resolute actions by development planners, including planners in the Health ministries, planning commissions, higher education authorities, ministries of finance and others, to realize the contribution of pathology services.

Dr Shein implored regional pathologists to be more patriotic and have greater perseverance and determination to serve and devotion to their profession.

"I am glad to note that many of our practising pathologists are in this class of professionals," the president said.