

Mawenzi Hospital acquires ultrasound

From DEUS NGOWI in Moshi

IT was all smiles at Kilimanjaro Region's Mawenzi Referral Hospital here yesterday as patients and other members of the public celebrated the arrival of an ultrasound machine.

The hospital is now in possession of the machine and already patients have started queuing at the hospital to make appointments, favouring the medical facility to other private hospitals whose charges are dear.

Speaking to the 'Daily News', some patients and relatives from several parts of the region decried the huge amount of money--ranging from 20,000/- upwards--they have been coughing up for ultrasonic examination in private hospitals.

Angelica Kisima from Uru Shimbwe said it was good news that Mawenzi Hospital has acquired the device, because she had spent over 100,000/- for herself and another relative in private clinics.

The costs of the same test at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) is pretty lower than in other medical institutions (about 7,000/-) because The Government and some donors put in some subvention.

An ultrasound device is used in different fields; partly to detect objects and measure distances and invisible flaws. It is common in examination of abdomen in matters relating to pregnancy, digestion disorders and hence medical imaging, detection, measurement and cleaning.

Much as the services at KCMC are excellent, it is difficult to get a speedy appointment since it caters for many outpatients and inpatients from within and outside the country and patients say the procedure could

prove complicated because one has to be referred there to be admitted.

Mawenzi Hospital Doctor In-Charge, Rwezaura Frederick said the hospital had been without the device, that they are much in need of, for more than a year and a half and that patients had no alternative but to go to either KCMC or private hospitals to be examined.

Dr Frederick said it was a huge challenge for expectant mothers who attended his hospital as well as to hospital staff when it comes they need the machine that was not available. He thanked Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) for donating the same, saying it has solved one of the most thorny problems they encountered.

"For more than one year and a half our hospital has been going without an ultrasound machine. We faced huge challenges as many patients came in need of the service such as pregnant women and others with what was thought to be kidney, liver and other complications but would not get examined," said Dr Frederick.

As a result, he said, a lot of patients had to frequent private hospitals where they would get examined and consequently be treated at skyrocketing costs but as of now, the hospital is back in business, priority being best service for all patients.

KCB Moshi Branch Manager, Oforo Erasmo asked the staff to make good use of the Ultrasound device so that it can last long and be worth of its 15m/- cost and said the bank donated it so as to get patients out of challenges they were facing.

He said KCB has set aside 350m/- for the whole country this year, as its corporate social responsibility, highlighting areas of health, education, water services and the environment.