

New York doctors attend to hundreds in Serengeti

**From MUGINI JACOB
in Serengeti**

HUNDREDS of patients from Serengeti and neighbouring districts turned up and were attended to by a team of doctors from New York over the weekend.

Health and Social Welfare Deputy Minister, Dr Stephen Kebwe launched the exercise on Friday at Nyerere District Hospital in the outskirts of Mugumu town.

Patients excited at the prospect of being attended to by doctors from the US flocked to the hospital. The doctors included Dr Edmund Kwan, a plastic surgeon who arrived in Mugumu on Thursday and started treating patients on Friday morning.

The exercise was a relief to patients who were unable to meet referral costs, thanks to efforts made by the Serengeti District Council Chairman, Mr John Ng'oina in bringing the doctors. There were 17 doctors in total including four medical students.

President of the Christian Life World Mission Volunteers Rev Dr Paul Kim coordinated the visit.

The Deputy Minister of

Health and Social Services hailed the programme and said he would like it to be sustained.

"We are happy to have you here you and do not hesitate to advise us. We would like to have you in Tanzania every six months", Dr Kebwe said while officiating exercise.

He said the government is doing everything necessary to improve health service delivery in Serengeti district and other parts of the country.

According to the council chairman, Serengeti will continue receiving medical specialists coming in from abroad.

"In August, we are going to have a specialist in kidneys from India. We value the health of our people," Mr Ng'oina said.

Last year, a team of Indian doctors visited the district and treated a number of patients free-of charge.

The Hospital's Medical Officer, Dr Mwashia said the number patients with complex diseases in the district is alarming.

Dr Kebwe, who is the member of Parliament for Serengeti constituency, urged residents to refrain from shunning health facilities.