

Africa Heart Foundation establish link with one of Africa's biggest hospital

By Samwel Rambaya

Africa's capacity to manage cardiac problems among the vulnerable population is set to get a boost following establishment of link between Africa Heart Foundation and Kenyatta National Hospital, the largest referral hospital in sub-Saharan Africa.

Under the proposed arrangement, AHF will sponsor advanced courses for Kenyan nurses in the critical care and help equip the department to enable it improve the delivery of its services.



AHF has already donated essential medical equipments and beddings to the Cardiac Ward of Kenyatta National Hospital worth over two million Kenya Shillings.

AHF's Board of Trustee Chairman Mr Enos Akunda revealed in Nairobi that AHF had identified Kenyatta National Hospital for partnership because of its strategic value.

"Besides being a public hospital, Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) is the largest referral hospital in the sub-Saharan Africa, which makes it ideal for AHF's mission of accessing quality health to the rural and urban poor," he said.

Akunda spoke at KNH where he led a high-powered delegation of AHF and UNISON official on a fact-finding mission. UNISON is collaborating with AHF to realise AHF's mission of rolling back the rheumatic heart disease among children of Africa.

The delegation included UNISON President Sue Highton and UNISON branch Secretary of Northern General Hospital, John Campbell, and senior staff of Northern General Hospital Cardiac Intensive Care Unit of Sheffield's Teaching Hospitals Ms Lindsay Callaway and Jane Doyle.

KNH's team led by Acting Chief Nurse Ms Peninah Waweru received donations that were presented by Ms Highton and Mercy Ochieng. The donations would assist the hospital in improving its service delivery to patients with cardiac problems. They toured the busy ward where they witness nurses at work.

Nursing staff at the Cardiac Ward also received a two hours training session conducted by Callaway, Doyle and Iram Zameer where experiences were shared and new knowledge acquired in patients management.

Akunda said under the partnership, all the corrective heart surgery for children with rheumatic heart disease sponsored by AHF would be conducted at Kenyatta National Hospital.

AHF had identified a local specialist, Dr Munene Kariuki who will be teaming up with heart specialist sponsored by UNISON from United Kingdom to treat poor children across Africa.

UNISON looking forward to sponsor a team of Kenyan nurses in cardiac wards for exchange program with a UK hospital where it is hoped the acquired knowledge would be used in transforming the patient's management in the public hospital.