

press release

Rotary Uganda and Standard Chartered Uganda launch the completed first phase of the Mengo hospital blood bank

23rd August 2016 – Kampala: Standard Chartered Bank and Rotary Uganda have today conducted a site tour of the Blood Bank that is being constructed at Mengo Hospital, the second blood bank in Uganda after the government owned National Blood Bank based at Nakasero run by the Uganda Blood Transfusion Service (UBTS). The centrally air-conditioned state – of – the art facility will cost about US Dollars 1,305,219 and will be set up on 750sq meters at Mengo Hospital.

The project was conceived by the Past District Governor Emmanuel Katongole as the pioneer Governor of District 9211. The Blood Bank will be a centrally air-conditioned state-of-the-art facility set up in 800 square meters building at Mengo Hospital and it will be the second largest public-private partnership service initiative taken up by the Clubs in Rotary District 9211, the first being the Rotary Cancer Centre at St. Raphael of St. Francis Nsambya Hospital.

Speaking at the tour, Rtn. Emmanuel Katongole, ***“all of us at one time will need blood or have had someone who needed blood but could not find it. As Rotary we are very excited that we were able to reach out to reliable partners like Standard Chartered Bank through their customers to come out and assist this worthy cause.***

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Standard Chartered Bank, the major partner in fundraising for this Blood Bank project, Rtn. Herman Kasekende, the Managing Director of Standard Chartered Bank has been at the forefront in organising fundraising events to see that this project becomes a success.

“On the behalf of my colleagues at Standard Chartered Bank, we are truly honoured to be part of this life-changing project. We are glad that our efforts will reduce the constant blood shortages and help save lives in our beloved country.

The Medical Director of Mengo Hospital, Dr. Rose Mutumba thanked all the companies and individuals that have generously donated to support the cause.

“According to World Health Organisation (WHO) standards, Uganda needs at least 300,000 units of safe blood per year to meet the minimum requirement. To acquire this number of units, at least 350,000 units have to be collected annually. We, at Mengo Hospital are grateful and proud that we

are going to help close this gap, with support from Rotary Uganda, Standard Chartered Bank and all the partners in the project.”

Last November, staff of Standard Chartered Bank staged a talent show at Theatre LaBonita to help fundraise for the project and they were able to collect Ugx 35m. Other companies that have contributed to this cause include Swanair Travel & Safaris Limited, Aikan Human Resource Consultants, Ernst & Young, DHL Express Uganda Limited, Sanlam Life Insurance (U) Limited, Southern Business Solutions, Royalway Media Ltd, SGA Security, Kampala Associated Advocates, KPMG, DON Uganda, Housing Finance Trust, Lumjo Consultants, Media World, Omnicom Limited, Total Uganda, Nice House of Plastics, Hima Cement, SWT Tanners, UAP Insurance, Monitor Publications, Limited, Nicontra Limited, Emirates, Mengo Hospital and Hariss International.

Once the construction of the blood bank is done, it will be equipped with sophisticated Blood Bank equipment and specialized staff training through a Rotary Foundation global grant of USD 449,219.

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