

Healthcare > Shared medical equipment programme was initially opposed by governors

Uhuru's historic inter-hospital call with medics in 3 counties

President and Kitui, Kericho governors listen in as radiology experts analyse patient's chest X-ray

BY TIMOTHY KEMEI
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A historic inter-hospital telephone conference was held between three public hospitals to allow medical specialists to discuss an X-ray image of a patient.

President Uhuru Kenyatta and Kericho Governor Paul Chepkwony and his Kitui counterpart Julius Malombe listened in as the radiology experts analysed the chest X-ray of a patient that was taken at Kericho District Hospital on June 8.

Using the new tele-radiology technology, doctors at the Kericho-based hospital, Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) in Uasin Gishu County and Mwingi District Hospital in Kitui could simultaneously view the image on computer screens and give their professional interpretation on the disease that was afflicting Mr Sammy Kirui.

The call came through at 3.55pm from Mwingi, where President Kenyatta and Governor Malombe were, and within two minutes of the image being displayed on the screens the doctors had come to a conclusion that the 42-year-old patient was suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

Mr Chepkwony followed the proceedings at the Kericho hospital, where radiographer and sonographer Lily Sawe gave the medical history of the patient to the doctors in the call.

Once the doctors were done with their business, it was chit-chat time for the three leaders, who discussed developments in the health sector.

"For one minute, I thought I was in America!" Mr Chepkwony



Hi-tech

CALL CROSSES COUNTY BORDERS

Leaders: President Uhuru Kenyatta and Kericho Governor Paul Chepkwony and his Kitui counterpart Julius Malombe.

Medics: Kericho District Hospital, Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) in Uasin Gishu County and Mwingi District Hospital in Kitui.

exclaimed, evoking laughter from the other leaders in the teleconference.

"The new imaging equipment has been very useful," said Mr Chepkwony. "We have stopped printing the X-ray results in film and we now give it to our clients in compact discs (CDs).

"Everything has gone digital, and doctors can share information in real time as well."

President Kenyatta responded

Kericho Governor Paul Chepkwony and Kericho District Hospital radiologist, Dr Lily Sawe, minutes before participating in the first tele-radiology session with medics at two other public hospitals on Saturday.

by saying that he was happy with the way in which the Shared Medical Equipment programme had been rolled out although it had initially been opposed vehemently by governors, who claimed that they had not been consulted.

"This has been made possible because of the co-operation that we have," responded President Kenyatta. "I am happy that the system is useful."

Mr Chepkwony said Kericho District Hospital had received, among other equipment, a mammogram machine, state-of-the-art imaging equipment and an orthopantomogram (OPG) for dental X-ray, adding that the hospital was making more income as a result of increased efficiency.

He noted that the number of patients who get imaging services at the hospital daily had since more

than doubled to between 80 to 100 daily, up from 40 to 60 prior to the launch of the machines.

Income made from the radiology department had increased to almost Sh1 million, he added.

"Even private hospitals in Kericho and the neighbouring counties refer their patients to us, and we are expecting the numbers to rise even further," he added.

Dr Sawe said however that the price of X-ray had been increased marginally by Sh100 to cater for the development of the radiologists report, noting however that the cost was worth it because the results were being delivered in real time.

She said the expert radiologists at the hospital were based at the MTRH and the Ministry of Health headquarters and Mama Lucy Kibaki Hospital in Nairobi.

TIMOTHY KEMEI | NATION

Four killed in Nyeri, Kitengela accidents

BY JULIUS MUSUNGU
AND NICHOLAS KOMU

A motorcyclist and his passenger died yesterday when they collided with a car near the Export Processing Zone in Kitengela.

The New Wide 2 garment factory closed indefinitely immediately after the accident following protests by residents and workers.

The two were taken to a nearby hospital but succumbed to injuries.

In the morning hours, a motorist was beaten by a mob when his car hit a motorbike in town.

Just two weeks ago, the bodyguard of a VIP shot at a motorcycle in the same town when riders attempted to block his convoy after an accident.

And on the Nyeri-Othaya road at Kagere Township, two people died when a speeding lorry rolled into a ditch.

The truck was transporting manure to Othaya town when it lost control at a corner. The turnboy died on the spot while the driver died while being treated at Othaya hospital.

The 2pm accident attracted a large crowd. The guard rails on the road could not stop the lorry from rolling into the ditch.

Nyeri South OCPD Joseph Mwika said the sharp bends played a part in the accident and that the truck might have developed a mechanical problem.

"There are many corners on this road and motorists usually find it hard to control their cars. They should exercise caution," the police chief said.

Lobby wants Charterhouse bank reopened for 'lack of evidence'

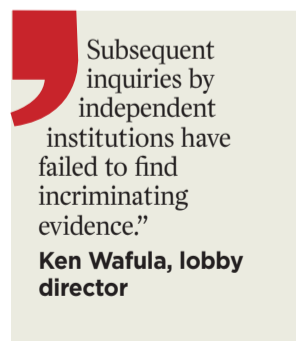
BY DENNIS LUBANGA

A human rights lobby has petitioned the Central Bank of Kenya to reinstate Charterhouse Bank Ltd's operating licence and reopen it unconditionally.

The Eldoret-based Centre for Human Rights and Democracy said there was no justification or convincing reasons for the continued closure of the bank.

In a statement, the group's executive director Ken Wafula said CBK had not given Charterhouse or the public any reason as to why the bank should remain closed.

"The Central Bank of Kenya had alleged that Charterhouse Bank was engaging in banking malpractices mainly money laundering and tax evasion. These claims have remained



Subsequent inquiries by independent institutions have failed to find incriminating evidence."

Ken Wafula, lobby director

just that, claims.

"They have never been substantiated. Subsequent inquiries and investigation by independent institutions have not only failed to find incriminating evidence against Charterhouse but have gone ahead to recommend for the re-opening of the bank," read their statement.

On June 23, 2006, CBK

placed Charterhouse under statutory management.

According to Mr Wafula, the Banking Act requires that such a move is valid only for 12 months unless circumstances dictate for a short extension.

"It is now 10 years since the instrument of statutory management was invoked and CBK is still silent," the statement added.

He also noted that the parliamentary committee on finance recommended that the bank be reopened.

"Kenya Revenue Authority through its former commissioner Michael Waweru told the parliamentary committee that it had no objection to Charterhouse's reopening," they said.

Mr Wafula said nobody had been charged.

BRIEFLY

KISII

County gets back land meant for fire station

The county has finally retaken land meant for the construction of a fire station which had been grabbed. The land was among several others the National Land Commission had cited as irregularly acquired. Yesterday, Kisii County's chief officer of administration Patrick Lumumba said the land had been irregularly taken by a church which has since returned it to the county management. He said the church's pastor had moved to court to stop the land's reclamation.

— Aggrey Omboki

KISII

Anti-graft team arrests officer set for vetting

A traffic policeman scheduled to appear before the vetting board in Kisumu today was on Saturday arrested alongside two others by Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission detectives for taking bribes from motorists at a traffic check-point on Kisii-Kilgoris road.

Acting on a tip-off, EACC officers raided the check-point at 11 am and recovered more than Sh24,840 in cash from the officers. A detective said they had received numerous complaints on the officers' conduct.

— Nation Correspondent

EMBU

Speaker raises alarm over bedbug menace

County Deputy Speaker Ibrahim Swaleh has raised the alarm over massive bedbug infestation in public schools within the Embu municipality and demanded fumigation by the county health department.

Mr Swaleh said many public primary schools in the county have been invaded by the bugs, posing a grave health hazard to pupils.

He mentioned Urban, County and Dallas as some of the primary schools that had reported the most severe bedbug infestations.

— Charles Wanyoro

KISUMU

PS faults data on Lake Victoria fish numbers



Fisheries Principal Secretary Micheni Ntiba on Friday got upset with a report presented to him by researchers on the number of fish caught in Lake Victoria in November 2015. Prof Ntiba (above), who was in Kisumu to launch the report and attend the fish stock assessment stakeholders meeting, criticised the participants for comparing data from different seasons. "When figures drop drastically it makes us believe that there is some sort of accident," he said. The surveyors defended themselves citing lack of funds as a major challenge.

— Anita Chepkoech