



Kenyatta National Hospital hosts Israeli Independence Day



Mrs. Dorothy Nyong'o receives a bouquet of flowers from one of the children admitted in the paediatric Oncology Ward who received guests after cutting of the tape.

It was a rather chilly morning, but the clouds cleared up as the guests started trickling in. The warm sunshine and the melodious voices from the KNH Choir gave a cheerful mood to the guests as they had their refreshments. The ambience at the Administration Garden was breathtaking; it was surely going to be a great day!

12th May, 2011, will go down the Hospital's history, as it hosted the Israeli Republic 63rd Independence Day when the Israel community donated superblous, with the highlight being the official hand-over of the newly refurbished paediatric oncology ward 1E. Guests were entertained by Israeli artist Tal Kravitz who demonstrated his prowess in the Swahili language and more moving performances followed from the KNH Choir. Melodies from the children patients of Ward 1E bellow the chilly morning deflecting memories of cancer ailment.

The Ag. Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Charles Kabetu, and the Chairperson Board of Directors, Mrs Margaret Wanjohi, in their speeches reiterated that Kenyatta National Hospital is overwhelmed by increased cases of cancer where KNH is overstretched because it is the only public hospital with cancer treatment facility in the country. The dual could not hide their joy and appreciation to the Jewish community and the Israel Embassy for sponsoring and equipping Ward 1E and appealed for others to emulate Jewish Community and support cancer management in the Country.

Dr. David Silverstein, Member of Board of the Jewish community living in Kenya said he was filled with great pride, nostalgia and honour to witness works of the Israeli ambassador and his wife for supporting the vulnerable and unfortunate

population. *"I commend you for breaking from the norm of holding lavish parties and diplomatic protocol and instead using the allowances you receive for national day celebrations to do acts of charity in order to improve the lot of the most vulnerable and unfortunate in the host country"* said Dr. Silverstein.

Israel Embassy has previously initiated similar projects in 2009 where they purchased land and provide shelter for the Light and Hope Centre for disabled children in Korogocho slums. In 2010, the embassy also reconstructed Kisumu Ndogo non-normal School.

The Israeli Ambassador H.E. Jacob Keidar was keen to marshal for similar acts of charity from other foreign missions, governments, media and private sector. He also commended the cordial ties between Kenya and Israel which dates to many years ago.

Minister for Medical Services Hon. Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o noted that he had firsthand experience with cancer and reiterated the importance of public awareness campaigns to enhance prevention and early detection of cancer. Hon. Anyang' Nyong'o appealed to the public to seek medical attention for cancer screening from the existing Government facilities. While appreciating that healthcare services is expensive, Hon. Anyang' Nyong'o said that his Ministry will push for the idea among policy makers to establish a Social Health Fund so as to assist poor Kenyans. *"We need to establish a mutual social responsibility for healthcare financing scheme where the rich support the poor to reduce the eminent gap in access to health services"* said Hon. Nyong'o. He also challenged KNH to consider



The Israeli Ambassador H.E. Jacob Keidar (C) admiring the renovation work in Ward 1E. With him is the Minister for Medical Services Hon. Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o (L) KNH Ag. Chief Executive Officer Dr. Charles Kabetu (R) and some of tthe children in the ward.

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setting up satellite clinics so as to decongest the hospital and reposition itself to handle the ever-growing demand for quality specialized services.

Other guests who graced the occasion include included; Provincial Commissioner Nairobi Province Mr. Waweru,

Minister for National Heritage Hon. William Ole Ntimama, business people Charles Njonjo, Manu Chandaria, Esther Pasisari, Reverend Teresa Wairimu, media personality Catherine Kasavuli, KNH Board of Directors to name but a few.

Pictorial



The Israeli Ambassador H.E. Jacob Keidar (R) hands over the dummy key of the refurbished Ward IE to the Minister for Medical Services Hon. Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o (L). Looking on is the Israeli Embassy Deputy Ambassador Mr. Albert Atias



Among the dignitaries in attendance: Minister for Medical Services Hon. Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o (L), The Israeli Ambassador H.E. Jacob Keidar (2L), Minister for National Heritage Hon. William Ole Ntimama (in red), Mrs. Oznat Keidar (2nd R) and Mrs. Dorothy Nyong'o (R)



Play time: The Israeli Ambassador H.E. Jacob Keidar (R) and the Minister for Medical Services Hon. Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o (L) helping the children admitted in Ward IE to play with the playstations.

Ward IE Playroom before refurbishment



Ward IE Playroom after refurbishment

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Quotable Quote!

"The human contribution is the essential ingredient. It is only in giving of oneself to others that we truly live".

Andrus, Ethel Percy

KNH Newsline: *Uniting Staff*