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Western Uganda gets 16 ambulances Publish Date: Jul 25, 2012



Some of the ambulances at Infectious Disease Institute Makerere University in Kampala. PHOTO: Francis Emurut newvision

By Francis Emurut

The people in Western Uganda have a reason to smile for they will no longer use rudimentary methods to transport pregnant women to hospital.

This follows a donation of 16 ambulances by the United States Government to transport pregnant women to the health facilities.

The 16 ambulances worth sh120m will be stationed in the districts of Kabarole, Kamwenge, Kibaale and Kyenjojo to transport pregnant women to the health centres.

The donation was under the grant of Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-Uganda to the Infectious Disease Institute (IDI) [Makerere University](#) and Baylor who are conducting a pilot project of saving mothers and babies during delivery in western Uganda.

The country director of CDC-Uganda Tadesse Wuhib observed that the donation is aimed at reducing maternal mortality by 50% within one year in the four districts.

Wuhib said Uganda joins Zambia as pilot projects where ambulances have been provided to the hard to reach areas under the project Saving Mothers Giving Life project funded by US government.

He said the project will be expanded to others districts in the country.

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Wuhib said the donation will help in alleviating the plight of pregnant mothers in hard to reach areas who have been carried by stretchers to health facilities.

The executive director of Infectious Disease Institute, Dr. Alex Coutinho noted that the donation would improve emergency response in ambulance referral system in the four districts.



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Emmanuel

Global fund style, USA cannot give out scooters for ambulances such that, i here one hundred and twenty millions for that trash, they robbed that money. those bubinika dont cost more than a \$1000.00 each in china, tukoooye agabbi.

Beddy

The bunkrupt and perversive mentality of Ugandans (inherent from colonialists) want to have expensive to maintain ambulances - made by Daimler Benz, Volvo, Nissan, etc. It is not so and in the so called developed countries, especially Asia, they use very simple ambulances, usually made / assembled in those countries. Expensive ones are for private clinics and hospitals with corresponding Health Insurances and Medical Bills, The essence is to provide medical aid quicker and for the start, these Bajaj-styled machines in Western Uganda are better than Boda-Bodas (they are covered and more speedy, equipped with seats for nurses / doctors, medical equipment racks, etc, The issue is to maintain them cheaper than mentioned above, No one can change or sell their spare-parts, as is the case now in Uganda. This is painful to some, especially drivers who always connive. When the economy improves

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