

## WHAT RELIGIOUS LEADERS SAY

**His Grace Stanley Ntagali**

This has been a great day for me. I have seen that there are many drugs in stock at NMS. I, therefore, call upon medics responsible for handling the drugs to be honest men and women of integrity in order to protect the lives of Ugandans. I am impressed that the warehouses are full of drugs enough for the whole country.

**Pastor Moses Bogere (SDA Church)**

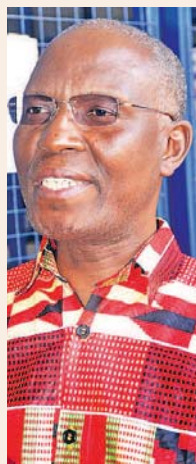
It is surprising that the stories we hear about the availability of drugs are different from what is on ground. Listening to the general manager's speech, which includes the journey of the organisation and also touring the warehouse, I have discovered that the country has enough drugs and vaccines. I call upon Ugandans, more so the medical practitioners to work hand-in-hand with NMS and help the people.

**Sheikh Ismail Ibrahim Sebaggala, Wakiso district Khadi**  
I have represented his Eminence Sheikh

Ramadhan Mubajje. We have toured all stores and confirmed that they are full to capacity. I, therefore, urge politicians to stop the harmful propaganda and work hand-in-hand with NMS for effective service delivery. This issue should not be played with because it concerns life and health. The hospital staff and communities should also follow up to see that the drugs benefit everybody at the grassroots. NMS has told us that all vaccines are free, yet we buy them.

**Mark Wamala, (general secretary of fellowship of Born-again churches)**

I am glad to have been part of the 25 years celebration. We have been hearing that there is no medicine in the public health facilities, but we have discovered that there is plenty. There should be goodwill from concerned people who have to collect the vaccines and distribute them to health facilities, where they are needed by the patients. To the medics, I urge you to serve people selflessly because your profession is a calling from God, which requires accountability and responsibility.



## Celebrating 25 years

By Rita Mukasa

**I**n celebration of hitting 25 years of successful national service, National Medical Stores (NMS) organised a three-day event during which groups of stakeholders were engaged.

This took place at the NMS headquarters on Nsamizi Road in Entebbe municipality, Wakiso district.

The groups included women and youth leaders, members of the medical and pharmaceutical fraternity and religious leaders from different denominations. On the first day on December 10, over 150 women and youth leaders spent the day at the NMS headquarters engaging in different activities. The next day, members of the medical and pharmaceutical fraternity were invited.

The religious leaders

wrapped up the celebrations on December 12. They were led by the Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, His Grace Stanley Ntagali, who was the chief guest and celebrant.

All stakeholder groups were addressed by the general manager of NMS, Moses Kamabare. They later engaged in question and answer discussions that helped NMS assess the milestones they have achieved in over 25 years of existence and service.

The groups were then given a tour of the warehouses and cold rooms.

Other activities included an on-sight health camp, where the staff and the guests got the opportunity to find out their HIV status and vitals, coupled with an opportunity to donate blood.

**Less pharmacists**

While at the event, Dr Ekwaro Obuku, the chairperson of the

Uganda Medical Association, implored the Government to put in place provisions that allow for recruitment of more pharmacists in public health centres.

He noted that there are only 45 pharmacists employed by the Government, in different regions of the country, yet the country has over 1,000 pharmacists and more are still graduating.

"Most of the pharmacists are employed in the private sector because they are not provided for in the public sector," he remarked.

Prof. John Charles Okiria, the chairperson of the Allied Health Professionals Council, was quick to add that the provision of pharmacists in public sector remains at a regional level.

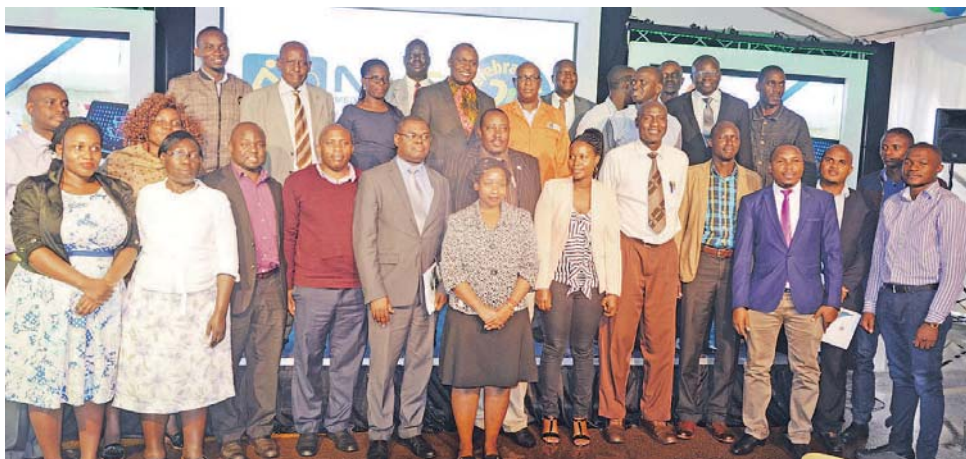
"We have 45 regions tallying the total number of pharmacists to 45 in the whole country," he elaborated.

implored the Government to create structures that can attract pharmacists at every health facility in Uganda.

A pharmacist is critical in patient care through medicines management, ordering, usage, storage, recommending appropriate treatment, prescription and determining appropriate drug alternatives.

According to a 2014 report by the Pharmaceutical Society of Uganda (PSU), nearly all of the general hospitals lack pharmacists. Of the 89 approved pharmacist positions in general hospitals, only 27 positions are filled, leaving a shortfall of 64 positions.

"Of the 42 pharmacist positions approved in the 13 regional referral hospitals, only 25 are filled, while 17 positions are vacant," reads the report in part.



Representatives of medical practitioners in a group photo at the 25-year celebrations



Kamabare (second-right) takes guests on a tour of the warehouse



Kamabare (left) with His Eminence Ntagali



# of NMS service

## LONGEST SERVING EMPLOYEES SINCE AUGUST 1995



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**Florence Busingye, security guard in HR and administration**



**Mugamba Robinah, office clerk in the finance and accounts department**



**Rita Bulamu, client services officer in Clients Services department**



**Stephen Mbabazi, warehouse assistant in the stores and operations department**



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Sovan Enterprises Limited is fully competent to render all types of services related to the profession and enjoys a high reputation within and outside Uganda. We are registered members of the Uganda clearing and forwarding association (U.C.I.F.A). Through UCIFA's membership, we benefit from the services of F.I.A.T.A.

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## Congratulations

*The Management and Staff of Sovan Enterprises Ltd with great pleasure congratulate NATIONAL MEDICAL STORES upon reaching the silver jubilee milestone.*



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**NMS**  
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Passionate about your Life



**KEBA INVESTMENTS LTD** is a Uganda owned private company incorporated on 22nd August 2005.

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To become a cherished and key provider of quality Products and Services with a professional client focus.

### MISSION

Integrating professionalism and quality initiatives to create satisfied clients hence promoting quality lives.

## Congratulations

*The Management and Staff of Keba Investments Ltd congratulate National Medical Stores (NMS) upon their 25th Anniversary.*

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- Institutional and Outside Catering • Events Venue and Management • Bakery and Confectionary
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### LOCATION

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Gach Services is a Customs Clearing and forwarding firm, a service enterprise handling various activities in the sphere of imports and exports. Incorporated in 1998 as a limited liability company, we offer traditional clearing and forwarding operations, consultancy and research in trade facilitation.

## Gach Services Congratulates NMS Upon Marking 25 Years. We Are Proud To Be Your Associated Business Partners

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To meet and exceed customer expectation in service delivery and also be a world class Logistics Company.

**MISSION**  
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- ◆ Forward Looking
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- Tax Advisory

### LOCATION

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**Entebbe Office**  
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