

BY TONNY ABET

KAMPALA. The Ministry of Health yesterday received donations of modern tuberculosis detection equipment from the US government and mobile TB clinics procured through Global Fund financing.

This equipment and mobile clinics are meant for areas with a high burden of tuberculosis (TB) and those that are hard to reach, to improve early detection and initiation into treatment as the country races to end the disease.

Around 96,000 people develop TB each year, with 30 dying of it daily, according to the ministry.

The US Ambassador, Mr William Popp, said they have provided 14 more ultra-portable MinXray systems with ad-

vanced technology, which can detect TB and other lung conditions.

"These 14 ultra-portable MinXray systems with AI software capabilities will ensure that more Ugandans are diagnosed quickly and accurately and will get the care that they need," he said at the ministry headquarters in Kampala on Monday.

The US Embassy also indicated that they provided 16 mobile TB clinics to aid active case finding and awareness creation.

Information from the ministry reveals that the equipment will go to districts of Mpigi, Hoima, Kapelebyong, Kampala Capital City Authority, Wakiso,

Iganga, Kole, Oyam, Mukono, Adjumani, Nabilatuk, Ntoroko, Serere, and Abim.

Earlier this year, the US government provided 48 additional digital X-ray units to the Ministry of Health, increas-

150,000

The number of people so far diagnosed by X-ray digital units provided by the US government. The machines have identified more than 4,600 TB cases.

ing the total to 65. These machines have already screened over 150,000 people and identified more than 4,600 TB cases for timely treatment, according to the ambassador.

Still yesterday, the ministry also flagged off 11 mobile TB clinics procured through the Global Fund for outreaches by regional referral hospitals of Kayunga, Masaka, Mubende, Jinja, Soroti, Moroto, Gulu, Hoima, Kabale, Fort Portal, and Arua.

Information from the ministry indicates that these clinics on big vans were already given to Mbarara, Mbale, and Lira regional referral hospitals, with two also at the centre, at the ministry head-

quarters for outreaches.

Dr Diana Atwine, the permanent secretary at the ministry, appreciated the US government and the Global Fund and asked health workers to make the best use of the equipment and transmit the health data promptly.

"We flagged off 11 mobile clinics for TB, and now we receive these 14 ultra-portal digital MinXray systems together with the power back-up systems, together with computers and tablets, blood sugar machines," she said.

"All this is aimed at ensuring that we screen and identify all the people, with not only TB but also other lung conditions," she added.