

PRESS RELEASE

Doing Good is Good Business – Xsabo Group

Doing Good is Good Business! That is the vision behind the dedication of the Xsabo Group, the biggest sponsor of the Mobile Medical Camp which returned to Kabulasoke today. The Mobile Medical Camp is an initiative of the Office of the Vice President of the Republic of Uganda which aims at instilling the virtue of voluntarism among the youths and making positive change agents out of them. Patients are treated free-of-charge.

Kabulasoke is the home of the Pilot Solar Power Park (20MW) of the Xsabo Group, which is the largest solar power plant in East and Central Africa. It is the first in a portfolio of five solar power plants of the Xsabo Group in various parts of Uganda for a total capacity of 150MW and a total investment volume of USD 200 million (UGX 747 Billion). The total investment volume for the Kabulasoke Solar Power Park was USD 24.5 million (UGX 91.4 Billion).

Xsabo's Pilot Solar Power Plant in Kabulasoke was commissioned on 9 January 2019 by Uganda's President Yoweri K. Museveni in the presence of Vice President Edward K. Ssekandi, who is Patron of both the Xsabo Solar Power Project and the Mobile Medical Camp.

The Mobile Medical Camp in Kabulasoke, which will run from today, 21 March 2019 up to tomorrow, Friday, 22 March 2019, will put extra emphasis on the treatment of malaria after the organizing team learnt from the District Health Team that Gomba District was registered last month as one of the districts in Uganda with the highest prevalence of malaria.

Other diseases being treated during this Mobile Medical Camp include, among others, diabetes, pressure and ulcers in addition to the following health services that will be provided: Family Planning and Health Care, Antennal Care Services, HIV/AIDS Testing and Counselling, Health Care Education, Cancer Screening and Care, Eye Care Services, Nutrition Education, Haemophilia Care and Awareness, Dental Services, Preventive Health Education and Free Male Circumcision. Going by past experience, about 1,500 people are expected to be treated and/or counselled in these two days that the Mobile Medical Camp will spend in Kabulasoke.

To-date, the Mobile Medical Camp organized by the Office of the Vice President in collaboration with the Xsabo Group and other donors has treated over 10,000 disadvantaged and needy people in rural areas free-of-charge. Julius Kanamwanji and Robert Kasagga, the overall coordinators of the Mobile Medical Camp, are excited that the team will soon be expanding their voluntary services to cover other parts of Uganda. "Both the Vice President and the Xsabo Foundation have already endorsed the idea and committed their support," the duo confirmed.

A special highlight this time is the presentation of the Fancy Pads Initiative under which women groups are being empowered by the Xsabo Foundation to produce self-made sanitary pads out of local banana fibres. Over 800 of these sanitary pads, which are running under the brand label "Fancy Pads," have been tested by girls and women of all walks of life who have been very impressed by their quality.

Fides Linien, the German fine artist spearheading the Fancy Pads project, says the immediate impact in the communities is that the initiative is now enabling many girls to stop missing school during their menstruation period. "The Fancy Pads product and implementation concept that I have developed are a sustainable answer for continuous availability of sanitary pads to all Ugandan girls and women," she stresses, adding that the initiative will empower youth and women for personal and independent development through "help for self-help." The women involved are trained to make their own sanitary pads and then use the skills they have acquired to train other women.

Vice President Ssekandi, who has been following the initiative with exceptional interest, says the project is already making an excellent contribution to menstrual hygiene management in its current pilot phase. The Vice President considers it a promising model to meet the NRM Government's declared aim of doing everything within its power to keep the Girl Child in school.

Like the Local Government leadership of Gomba District, including District Chairman Geoffrey Kiviri and Resident District Commissioner Ruth Sabiti Kashaka, the people of Kabulasoke are full of praise for the Xsabo Group for being part of their community in this way. "We thought they would disappear after commissioning [of the Pilot Solar Power Plant] but they really love this community," some of them were heard saying.

The Xsabo Group is also the sponsor of youth income generation activities, art groups and the Annual Youth Football Tournament in Greater Masaka Region, to which Kabulasoke belongs.

Asked why the Xsabo Group has, even long before the commissioning of the Pilot Solar Power Plant in Kabulasoke, already been spending Hundreds of Millions of Uganda Shillings on such Corporate Social Responsibility activities, Dr David Aloba, CEO/Managing Director of the Xsabo Group, simply explains that doing good by giving back to the communities hosting them is good business.

THE XSABO FOUNDATION
Kabulasoke, 21 March 2019