



## The Aga Khan Hospital, Dar es Salaam

An Institution of the Aga Khan Health Service, Tanzania

Press release

For immediate release

### Honourable Ummy Ally Mwalimu launches second phase of Aga Khan Hospital Construction



**Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 23 August 2016** - Tanzania's Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Honourable Madam Ummy Ally Mwalimu, and Princess Zahra Aga Khan, Chair of the Aga Khan Health Services Board Executive Committee, officially launched Phase 2 construction of the Aga Khan Hospital today.

The Hospital is at the centre of a healthcare system under the Aga Khan Health Service, Tanzania (AKHS,T) that currently provides quality healthcare to 400,000 Tanzanians. After its US\$ 80 million (Tshs. 167 billion) Phase 2 expansion, the Hospital will develop into a leading teaching centre and tertiary health care medical facility for the country and the rest of sub-Saharan Africa. The budget also includes an expansion of the number of outreach health centres throughout the country up to 35. Through improvements in its training facilities, it is intended to have a significant impact on the quality of health care at other Tanzanian institutions.

The overall expected impact includes the provision of superior health care services to a large population of Tanzanians. Along with more traditional services, such as family medicine, child and maternal care, the development of new specialist programmes in cardiology, oncology and neurosciences will assist in addressing the strong increase in mortality caused by chronic diseases, both in Tanzania and across sub-Saharan Africa.

Princess Zahra Aga Khan stressed the need for capacity building in the country, indicating that it is the key driving force for the Phase 2 expansion, and is essential in scaling the programmes to eventually become a launchpad for a postgraduate medical education. She said that the Phase 2 programme includes funds, which have been set aside to train Tanzanians in specialised medicine at leading international institutions.

“The Government today spends enormous amounts of money in providing tertiary level treatment to Tanzanians in overseas hospitals. We clearly need to reverse this trend. The Phase 2 expansion will allow us to ensure that Tanzanians receive advanced medical care at home, with the convenience and support that they so rightly deserve,” said Honourable Ummy, during the opening.

Honourable Ummy commended the Aga Khan Hospital on achieving accreditation by the Joint Commission which is the Gold Standard in hospital quality and patient safety. “We are extremely proud that we now have a Hospital in Tanzania that compares with the best in the world. Congratulations for this well-deserved accreditation.”

Tanzania's Aga Khan Hospital is only one of two internationally accredited Hospitals in East Africa, the other being the Aga Khan Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya.

## NOTES

The *Aga Khan Hospital, Dar es Salaam* (AKH, Dar) is a not-for-profit premier secondary and tertiary integrated referral healthcare system that aims to provide accessible, high quality, and cost effective medical services to the people of Tanzania and beyond.

The Hospital offers a continuum of care coordinated across its Primary Medical Centres in Dodoma, Iringa, Mbeya, Morogoro, and Mwanza and Outreach Health Centres in Arusha, Dar es Salaam's Mbezi Beach, City Centre, Masaki, Mikocheni and Tandika and Buzuruga in Mwanza. At each level of care focus is on providing services that are needed and wanted by the community whilst building linkages within the system. The Aga Khan Hospital also aims to ensure a quality of care that significantly raises local standards.

In 2012, the Aga Khan Hospital network set out on a US\$ 80 million (Tshs. 167 billion) expansion plan that will see the institution transform into a world-class health care institution by 2018, as well as an increase in the number of primary and outreach health centres in the country from 13 to 35.

In July 2016, the Aga Khan Hospital was awarded the coveted Joint Commission International (JCI) accreditation. This is a proud achievement not only for the institution, but for the country, being the first time ever that a hospital in Tanzania has achieved such a credential. Today, Tanzania can boast international standard patient care equivalent to any renowned hospital in the world available within its borders.

In addition to excellent diagnostic services including cardiac catheterisation and nuclear medicine, the Hospital offers over 30 clinical specialties and subspecialties, including Cardiology, Oncology, Family Medicine, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Gynaecology, Nephrology, Neurosciences, Orthopaedics, Paediatrics and Neonatology.

The Hospital serves as the training site for the Aga Khan University Postgraduate Medical Education Programmes in Family Medicine, Internal Medicine and General Surgery leading to a Master of Medicine degree. In addition, it is the only private hospital Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children accredited internship site for medical and pharmacy graduates.

Read online at: <http://www.akdn.org/press-release/honourable-ummy-ally-mwalimu-launches-second-phase-of-aga-khan-hospital-construction>