

TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2011



Picture: TAKYI BOATENG

• The Omanhene of New Juaben, Daasebrè Oti Boateng (middle), being assisted by Mr Robert Joseph Mettle Nunoo (left), and Dr. Apea Kubi (right), to cut the tape to inaugurate the GH¢3,392,693.80 Orthopaedic Block for St. Joseph Hospital at Effiduase, in the Eastern Region.

St Joseph Hospital gets new trauma centre

Story: Nana Konadu Agyeman, Koforidua

A MODERN Orthopaedic and Trauma Block has been inaugurated at the St Joseph's Hospital at Effiduase in the New Juaben municipality in the Eastern Region.

The 200-bed facility will provide specialised orthopaedic and trauma health-care services for patients in the Eastern Region and other parts of the country, as well as those from the West African sub-region.

The project, which was executed at the cost GH¢3,392,623, was solely funded by a Holland-based couple, Mr and Mrs Joop Van CalenBorgh, with support from Care To Move, a non-governmental organisation in Holland.

At the inauguration ceremony on Saturday, the Medical Director of the St Joseph's Hospital, Rev Bro Stephen Obku, said the completion of the facility would enable staff of the hospital to respond promptly to accident and trauma cases.

Additionally, the facility would reduce the period patients had to wait at the hospital to receive specialised treatment.

He stated that the hospital was established in 1959 by the Brothers of St John of God from the Castilian Province of Spain and was the first Christian health institution to offer specialised services in

orthopaedics and trauma in the country.

According to him; the facility recorded 70,622 outpatient cases in 2010, the highest ever in many years, with malaria being the highest morbidity cases recorded.

On the challenges facing the hospital, Rev Obku mentioned the lack of orthopaedic and X-ray equipment, vehicles and computers and appealed to the Ministry of Health to help address that.

The Deputy Minister of Health, Mr Rojo Mettle-Nunoo, who represented the President, commended the management and staff of the hospital for rendering quality healthcare services to patients over the years and pledged the support of the government for the facility.

For his part, the Eastern Regional Minister, Dr Kwasi Apea-Kubi, said as a result of the high standard of health care being provided by the hospital, the Eastern Regional Co-ordinating Council had constructed a road to the facility at the cost of GH¢273,438 to facilitate the transportation of accident victims to the hospital.

The Omanhene of the New Juaben Traditional Area, Daasebre Oti Boateng, underscored the need for the management of hospital to consider setting up a stem cell research laboratory to enable it to treat the overwhelming bone-related cases it handled.