

By Umar Nsubuga and Mathias Mazinga

The Joint Medical Store (JMS) was established in 1979 as a joint venture between the Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau and the Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau.

By establishing this ecumenical co-operation, the Catholic bishops, who own the Catholic Medical Bureau, and the Church of Uganda Prelates, who own the Protestant Medical Bureau, wanted to combine efforts to boost the medical services of the two mainstream churches.

**Commitment**

The solidarity of the Catholic Church and the Church of Uganda in the medical/healing ministry was highlighted in clear terms during the extraordinary symposium that was organised at the headquarters of Uganda Joint Medical Store at Nsambya, Kampala on June 4.

The symposium was another activity to celebrate 40 years of the inception of JMS.

Catholic and Anglican bishops sat together as they discussed strategic issues pertaining to the organisation's efficiency, development and plans.

The chairperson of the Uganda Episcopal Conference, the Rt Rev Prof. Joseph

# How Anglican, Catholic co-operation birthed JMS



Joint Medical Store (JMS) headquarters in Kampala. JMS is a co-operation between the Anglican/Catholic churches

Anthony Zziwa, justified the necessity for the two Churches to work even more harmoniously during the next decade. "If we work together, we can serve humanity better. The achievements of Joint Medical Store in the last 40 years stand as a testimony to this. But we also need to

work together in the area of education. Just like medical work, education in Uganda was pioneered by the Christian missionaries," he said. "The education that the missionaries introduced was holistic. It involved the academic, moral and religious

formation of the students. Today, Christian morals and values are eroding away, in many of our schools. We need to work together to defend and develop the rich education legacy that the missionaries entrusted to us," Zziwa said. The Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, the Most

Rev Stanley Ntagali said: "Healing people is part and parcel of the Church's evangelistic ministry. Jesus satisfied the spiritual and physical needs of the people. He preached the Good News, healed and fed the people. He wanted people to have life in its fullness." "As

church leaders, we want to heal people's bodies so that they can be good followers of Christ. It is not enough to tell a sick person that Jesus loves you and ignore their physical needs.

Medical work is one of the practical ways of preaching the gospel.

Through our involvement in the medical service provision, we carry on the healing ministry of Jesus," he added.

**History**

In 1979, after the liberation war that led to the overthrow of President Idi Amin's regime, there were a number of donors supporting each health unit. However, they were doing this individually; some were supporting more than one, but without a distinct coordinated structure.

This realisation led to the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of Uganda through their medical to set up the JMS.

"This was so that it could support the supply chain for the mission health units; to ensure that they get good quality products in time and also co-ordinate donations," Dr Bilard Baguma the JMS executive director said.

In cases where there were no donations, JMS was tasked with finding medical supplies at reasonable prices.

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**Joint Medical Store at 40th Anniversary**

National Drug Authority (NDA) congratulates Joint Medical Store (JMS) upon achieving 40 years of dedicated Supply Chain Management of Quality Health Solutions.

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