

RVTH

Royal Victoria Teaching Hospital

PRESS RELEASE:

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Hospital Tours launched

The Hospital Tours Group of the Royal Victoria Teaching Hospital Thursday, February 24, launched the Hospital Tours at a ceremony held at the Conference Hall.

The event also coincided with the graduation ceremony of the 12 trained tour guides. The two-hour tour, which runs from Monday to Thursday, is designed to recruit donors who would commit to be "Friends of RVTH."

The concept of the Hospital Tours was to encourage the 90, 000 tourists who visit The Gambia each year to visit the hospital. Speaking at the launching ceremony, Dr Pamela Esangbedo, RVTH Chief Medical Director, said the hospital realized that many of the visiting tourists are interested in learning about the life and work of people in The Gambia, particularly in the healthcare services, besides enjoyment of the "pleasant climate and wonderful beaches.

"Since the start of the Hospital Tours and the 'Friends of the RVTH' initiative on January 10, 2004 RVTH received more than 200 visitors and more that D100, 000 cash and kind donations," she disclosed.

Dr Esangbedo said the initiative would supplement government's subvention to the hospital, ensure better healthcare services, and train healthcare personnel, especially medical doctors.

Launching the Hospital Tours, Abdoulie Mam Njie, the Permanent Secretary at the department of state for Tourism & Culture, said the scheme is aimed at recruiting sympathetic people from Europe and other places to support the hospital. "And through such complementary visits, tourists could be shown the positive side of The Gambia," he said.

He assured that they would, through the Gambia Tourism Authority (GTA), encourage tourists to visit the hospital.

Pledging to market RVTH brochure outside The Gambia, Kaliba Senghore, acting Director General of GTA, urged the trained tour guides to maintain professionalism in the dispensation of their duties, noting that the Hospital Tours would enhance holiday experience of tourists in The Gambia.

The ceremony, attended by tour operators, hoteliers and RVTH staff, was chaired by Malick Mboob, RVTH Communications Officer while Saikou Janneh, Deputy Permanent Secretary, department of state for Health & Social Welfare, presented certificates to the guides.

The Hospital Tours Group consists of Baboucarr Ngum, PRO/Nursing Training Manager, Malick Mboob, Communications Officer, Allan Rickmann, Management Adviser, Abdoulie Danso, Head of Security, Tumani Janneh, Duty Room Matron, Andrew SK Jatta, Domestic Supervisor and Fatou Nyabally, Principal Private Secretary.