

RVTH

RoyalVictoriaTeachingHospital

PRESS RELEASE:

Banjul, 23rd September 2004

Africell Donates Drugs and Consumables to RVTH

The Royal Victoria Teaching Hospital is delighted to announce the donation of a significant quantity of drugs, equipment and surgical items to RVTH by Africell, one of The Gambia's leading mobile telecommunications providers.

This kind and generous gesture was made in a ceremony at RVTH on 21st September 2004, in the presence of the Hon Secretary of State for Health and Social Welfare, Dr Yankuba Kassama.

Mr Martin Brady, the Marketing and Sales Manager for Africell, reaffirmed Africell's commitment to assisting the health sector and RVTH in particular, and stated that the donation was merely a short-term gesture to alleviate shortages. He pledged that Africell would continue to work with RVTH to build a lasting development partnership and promised that, if there continued to be shortages in the items donated, Africell would step in to assist RVTH. The donated items were purchased from Imres (Gambia) Limited, a leading pharmaceutical supplier.

Dr Yankuba Kassama, the Hon Secretary of State for Health and Social Welfare, called on other successful enterprises to emulate the gesture of Africell and rise to the challenge of building a robust health service for all Gambians. He praised Africell's courage in pledging half of its profits from its SMS service to assist RVTH and hoped, for the sake of the healthcare service, that Africell would be successful.

Mr Essa Khan, the Permanent Secretary, Department of State for Health and Social Welfare, also extended the gratitude of both the RVTH and the Department of State and indicated that this laudable donation represents another step in building a solid foundation and collaboration between RVTH and Africell.

Speaking after the ceremony, Mr Baboucarr Ngum JP, the RVTH Public Relations Officer, looked to the future. "We hope that this is the beginning of a mutually fruitful relationship with Africell. The pledge by Mr Brady, along with Imres, to monitor the levels of these donated items is reassuring and we look forward to moving forward with Africell in a true partnership for development."¹