

# JAPAN OPENS SH387M OPERATING THEATRE IN AGAGO

BY FRANCIS EMORUT  
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Beaming with a smile, Alice Akanyo could not hide her joy as she carried her twin babies, having escaped death.

It was on July 20, when the 29-year-old mother developed labour pains at her maternity bed at Kalongo Hospital in Agago district, not knowing that one of the babies was transverse in her womb.

According to the in-charge of the hospital, Pascal Lalam, such a condition is dangerous for both the baby and the mother's life.

"The baby was across the womb and this could lead to the rupture of the mother's uterus and it can cause death," Lalam says.

Akanyo, who hails from Omoro sub-county and is a P5 dropout, was rushed to the theatre as it was now emergency case.

The new operating theatre constructed by the Embassy of

Japan was timely. Gynaecology and obstetrics specialist Dr Noa Nishidate carried out a caesarian operation with a team of hospital medics to save Akanyo's life.

Nishidate, a Japanese national, explained that the quick intervention is what saved the life of the mother of the male twins.

The new operating theatre was funded to the tune of \$110,618 (about sh387.2m).

"I chose to work in Uganda because there are a few doctors compared to Japan," Nishidate said.

The 33-year-old obstetrician is hardly six-months-old in her job.

Akanyo, whose husband is a peasant, said the new operating theatre will go a long way in serving the communities of Agago.

According to Dr Patient Myango 793 major and 1,295 minor surgical operations have been performed in the new theatre.

In total, the Embassy of Japan has invested \$581,804 (about sh2b)



Kameda (centre) with Sr Rosettee Lanyero and the Gulu municipality deputy mayor Pauline Lukwayi (left) after inspecting the girls dormitory constructed by the Japanese government on Wednesday

towards grant grassroots projects (GGP) in northern Uganda.

According to the Japanese ambassador to Uganda, Kazuaki Kameda, the grant is meant to

support community-based projects funded by the Japan Government in northern Uganda such as education, health, and water and sanitation.

PHOTO BY FRANCIS EMORUT

Kameda elaborated that Japan's country assistance policy for Uganda is derived from four themes, namely; infrastructure improvement to achieve economic growth, income elevation in rural areas, improvement of living conditions (health and water supply) and peace building.

The districts that have benefited from the Japan country GGP funding include Gulu, Agago and Lira.

Two dormitories for girls have been constructed in Ohiya and Kalong primary schools in Gulu and Agago to curb girl-child school drop outs. Each dormitory will accommodate 200 pupils. In addition, a laboratory, which will accommodate 160 students,

has been constructed at Akwang Secondary School and 15 boreholes have been drilled in Agago district.

According to Sr Rosettee Lanyero the headteacher of Opiya Primary School, the dormitory will help girls to remain in school and would be protected from men who would want to defile them on their way home.