

BY MAKHTUM MUZIRANSA

### BY THE NUMBERS

- Children make up 10% of patients at UCI
- Thousands of childhood cancer cases reported annually
- 2 years of KHC-UCCF partnership
- Multiple services supported: transport, chemo, surgery, radiotherapy, palliative care

**KAMPALA.** There are reportedly thousands of new cases of childhood cancer annually.

However, unlike with adults, children cannot be screened but rather diagnosed. Sometimes this diagnosis is done late or during advanced stages of illness. "Awareness therefore is key," Dr. Derrick Bary Abila, said in Mulago on Wednesday as he thanked Kampala Hockey Club (KHC) for choosing the Uganda Child Cancer Foundation (UCCF) as its first Corporate Social Responsibility partner for the next two years.

Children make 10 percent of the patients at Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI) and UCCF provide psycho-social

# Kampala HC join fight against Child Cancer



**One Dream.** UCCF ED Moses Ecodu (L) and KHC chairman Richard Ssemwogerere have fused forces to create awareness around child cancer. PHOTO / PATRICIA NAKYANZI

support to children who are suffering from cancer. This includes support towards transport, chemotherapy, surgery, radiotherapy, palliative care, and during survivorship.

"Diagnosis with cancer comes with a lot of burden. It is not like Malaria where you can receive treatment for a few days.

"Here, it is a journey from the process of diagnosis to treatment," Abila continued while the executive director Moses Ecodu, who signed the agreement on behalf of UCCF and is also a survivor of childhood cancer, said their works have helped to "reduce abandonment of treatment," among

### AWARENESS GAP

**Silent Burden.** Children account for about 10% of patients at the UCI, yet many families struggle with delayed diagnosis, long treatment journeys and the emotional and financial strain that comes with childhood cancer, a gap that stakeholders say can be narrowed through community sensitisation and partnerships.

children and their caretakers.

"Sport is not just about talents but also unifying communities. We do some work in high schools too and we believe this collaboration will help amplify awareness, strengthen community support, and contribute to improved care and outcomes for young patients," Ecodu said.

### Awareness through sports

Over the next two years, KHC will engage its players, supporters, and partners in initiatives designed to raise awareness about childhood cancer, mobilize resources, and provide meaningful support to children and families receiving care at the Uganda Cancer Institute.

This will be done through integrating planned outreach activities, fund-raising initiatives, hospital visits, and awareness campaigns into KHC's sporting calendar.

"We want to thank UCCF for allowing us to join this noble cause. Let us put smiles on these young faces. We believe that impacting kids beyond the hockey pitch is a great thing to do and hopefully this partnership will be longlasting," KHC chairperson Richard Ssemwogerere, said.