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Asian healthcare giant opens Sh253 million centre in Nairobi

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A view of the entrance to the Columbia Africa healthcare facility in Parklands, Nairobi. /COURTESY

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One of Asia's fastest-growing healthcare companies has opened a 5,300-square-foot multi-speciality clinic and diagnostic centre in Nairobi.

The centre by Columbia Asia, its first in Africa, will offer affordable, modern and efficient healthcare at Park Place off Limuru Road in Parklands.

Operating under the name 'Columbia Africa', it will specialise in family and internal medicine, pediatrics, gynaecology, general surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology and dental care.

Health checks and tele-medicine will also be offered, allowing patients to consult with specialist doctors at Columbia Asia hospitals.

The company has 27 hospitals and a clinic in India, and other facilities in Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia.

The Nairobi facility has a services centre for patients travelling for surgery at Asia hospitals which had been receiving a significant number of patients from East Africa.

The \$2.5 million (Sh253 million clinic) was opened last Monday in the city with more than three million people and is experiencing a surge in foreign investment.

"Africa has become a growing market for us as patients are increasingly seeking multi-specialty, affordable healthcare services delivered at international standards," said Columbia Asia group CEO John Northen.

Columbia Asia opened its first hospital in Malaysia in 1996 and became one of the largest healthcare companies in Asia in a span of two decades.

With the addition of the Columbia Africa clinic, the company has 10,000 employees serving more than 2.5 million patients a year, with 2,200 beds across 27 hospitals and two clinics.

The healthcare burden has seen many Kenyans travel to countries such as India and the United States for treatment. Facilities, including Kenyatta National Hospital, lack sufficient equipment, and treatment at private hospitals is expensive.

Efforts for a turnaround include President Uhuru Kenya's expected visit to Cuba later this year, as Kenya seeks to align its healthcare system to the Caribbean country's.

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