Kosmos Energy presents COVID-19 test machine to Ghana Health Service

By Rejoice Lavinia Eklu

KOSMOS Energy, an oil and gas company, has presented medical equipment worth $50,000 to the Ghana Health Service (GHS) to help in the fight against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

The equipment includes an automated care start deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and ribonucleic acid (RNA) extraction machine that is fitted with electromagnetic signals that transmit test results automatically and 15,000 swabs for use in collecting samples of sputum for testing.

The equipment is expected to increase the country's testing capacity and enhance the turnaround time for test results.

Healthy society

The Senior Vice-President of Kosmos Energy and Head of the Ghana Business Unit, Mr Joe Mensah, presented the equipment to the Director-General of the GHS, Dr Patrick Kuma-Aboagye, in Accra yesterday.

Mr Mensah said the extraction machine would give the GHS the capability to conduct more COVID-19 tests, adding that "the machine will allow the service to do 96 extractions in 15 minutes, which is something very important".

He said in a discussion Kosmos Energy had with the GHS, they came to the realisation that an extraction machine was needed for more tests to be run on COVID-19, hence the presentation.

"As a company, the little that we can do is facilitate the work health workers are doing and help them in any way that can make their jobs easier for them.

"So we are providing these items in the hope that they will be gingered to continue with the great work they are doing to keep us all healthy," he added.

He applauded health workers for putting their lives in the frontline to save lives and maintain a healthy society.

"Our health workers have been doing a great job to keep our society healthy. For every society, the health of its people is most important, since one has nothing without good health," Mr Mensah said.

Fast test

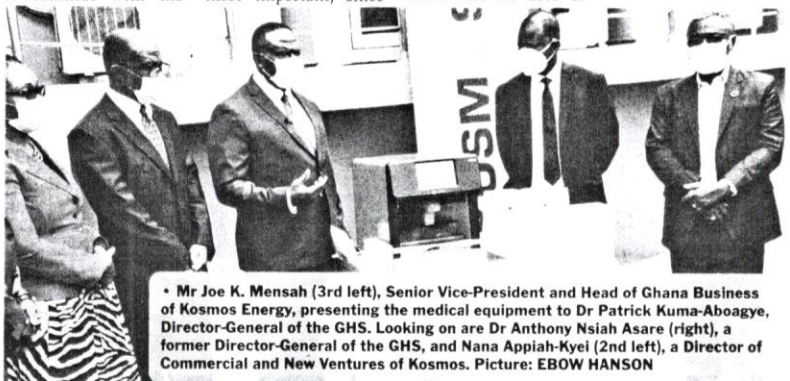
For his part, Dr Kuma-Aboagye expressed gratitude to Kosmos Energy for the gesture.

"We are very grateful, not just for the DNA/RNA extraction machine but also for the kits that come with it," he said.

He said extraction kits were essential components for testing, "so this will go a long way to help us conduct tests faster and be able to isolate early enough".

He acknowledged the fact that the items would not only advance work in the fight against the COVID-19 but also reduce the huge cost the government had to bear with regard to the purchasing of test kits.

"So far we have done close to 300,000 tests across the country and that comes at a huge cost. So these DNA/RNA automated extraction kits are going to help not only one facility but other facilities as well," he added.



• Mr Joe K. Mensah (3rd left), Senior Vice-President and Head of Ghana Business of Kosmos Energy, presenting the medical equipment to Dr Patrick Kuma-Aboagye, Director-General of the GHS. Looking on are Dr Anthony Nsiah Asare (right), a former Director-General of the GHS, and Nana Appiah-Kyei (2nd left), a Director of Commercial and New Ventures of Kosmos. Picture: EBOW HANSON

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