

Lions Club of Port Louis donates OCT machine

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The Lions Club of Port Louis and the Teaching Eye Surgery Foundation of Switzerland donated an Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) machine to the Subramania Bharati Eye Hospital in Moka on Tuesday. This was done in the presence of the minister of Health and Quality of Life Maya Hanoomanjee.

Minister of Health Maya Hanoomanjee (third from right) briefed on the functions of the OCT machine donated by the Lions Club of Port Louis at Moka

The OCT machine, which costs Rs 3.3 million per unit, is a modern apparatus that is used to detect eye diseases. The Mauritian government already possessed one of these machines.

Hanoomanjee acknowledged that this additional one would help examine the retina thoroughly and detect the damaging part and repair it, especially among diabetic persons who are prone to eye-related diseases.

Speaking about the alarming situation of diabetics in Mauritius, she said, "One of the biggest problems in Mauritius is diabetes and according to the recent surveys by the Non Communicable Disease Office, 19.3 per cent of people above 30 are diabetic. Hence the government is taking the situation seriously and tackling this problem as one of its priorities."

Saluting the efforts of Lions Club, Hanoomanjee said that the ministry needs this kind of help and made an appeal to NGOs and private organisations to support the various initiatives of the health ministry.

Answering questions of the press on alleged negligence in the case of Drishtee Jeetoo, Hanoomanjee stated that action will be taken in case this allegation is proven. An enquiry has already been initiated at the concerned ministry.

It should be highlighted that the investigation follows the conclusion of the Ompudsperson for Children, Shirin Aumeeruddy-Cziffra, as part of an inquiry conducted after the death of a three-year-old girl who was beaten to death by her stepfather on December 14.

A month before the tragedy, she was sent to hospital but the doctor on duty did not notice that the child had a broken arm.

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