

DAAD

“I wanted to be where the answers to diseases come from”



Researcher with a sense of responsibility: Nyanda Elias Ntinginya

Dr. Nyanda Elias Ntinginya has made his way from a small village near the Victoria Lake to the top of the renowned Mbeya Medical Research Center (MMRC) which is part of the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) in Tanzania. On his way, Ntinginya has been supported by his parents, passionate researchers and doctors in Tanzania and Germany – and by DAAD’s programme “exceed - Higher Education Excellence in Development Cooperation”.

Dr. Ntinginya, after completing your PhD at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) in Munich in early 2017 you have returned to the [Mbeya Medical Research Center](http://www.mmrp.org/) [http://www.mmrp.org/] as its acting director. What are the main goals of the center?

Nyanda Elias Ntinginya: One of our most important goals is to continue to conduct research especially in the field of infectious diseases, for the benefit of our communities in Tanzania, but also to help people all over the world. Hence it is very important that we build the capacities for conducting this kind of research. Therefore, we are investing in local human resource development and the infrastructure of our center. As per the mandate of the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), we want to deliver evidence-based information in the fight against diseases like HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and others that are a national and global priority. That's what we live for.

for our work at the Mbeya Medical Research Center. There has always been a close exchange between German and Tanzanian researchers at the center, but we have a lot of other international partners, like, for example, the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR)/US Military HIV Research Program, the University of St Andrews in the UK, the Radboud university medical center in The Netherlands, The Aurum Institute in South Africa, the Medical Research Council Gambia, as well as many other collaborators.

What are your plans for the future at the Mbeya Medical Research Center?

Sustainable international exchange and cooperation is top of our agenda. This way, we can continue adding value to our country, but also to the world in terms of science and research. We want to continue mobilising resources so that we can effectively implement our ideas. That includes making resources for research available through attracting more grants for international exchange and cooperation. Regarding capacity building, our center has just recently bought a piece of land to build a college on. So, for the students who cannot afford to go abroad, there's another chance to get a diploma. We are located close to the borders to Malawi, Zambia and the DR Congo, so not only Tanzanian students could profit from this initiative.

Interview: Johannes Göbel (27 October 2017)

ADDITIONAL LINK
