



18<sup>th</sup> June 2010

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Press Release

**HERITAGE HOTELS SUPPORTS MEAK HEART AND EYE TRIP TO KENYA**

Heritage Hotels will support a team of leading heart surgeons from the United Kingdom to operate on physically challenged children in need of heart surgery in Mombasa. The surgeons, working with the Medical and Educational Aid to Kenya (MEAK), a charity set up by Mike and Dee Bellière of the UK in 1994, operates for free on needy children. The heart surgeries will be carried out at The Mombasa Hospital from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> June.

Heart disease in Kenya is a major problem, especially for children from poor families due to hereditary reasons, poor health care in rural areas and lack of highly qualified cardiologists and cardiac surgeons.

By the end of 2009 MEAK completed 14 heart trips, operating and giving a chance of a full and healthy life, to nearly 300 young children. MEAK is responsible for an estimated 30% of all paediatric open-heart surgery carried out, annually, for the children of impoverished families.

Dee Bellière will also be leading a different team of MEAK doctors from the Kwale District Eye Centre to the Masai Mara where they shall be operating on cataract and trachoma cases. They expect to operate on over 100 cases between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June. The operations shall be at the Mara Intrepids Camp's clinic.

Heritage Hotels, Kenya's leading hotelier and tour company, will provide accommodation, food and transport for the team of doctors and patients (in the Masai Mara), nurses and administrators and food for the patients. Heritage Hotels has worked with MEAK in Samburu, Sekenani (Siana Springs) in Masai Mara where it also hosted the medical team. "It's a small way of giving back to the community," comments George Kariuki of Heritage Hotels.

For more on MEAK log on <http://www.meak.org/meakhome.html>

For more on Heritage Hotels log on [www.heritage-eastafrika.com](http://www.heritage-eastafrika.com)

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