



## **Access Bank (Rwanda) Ltd in partnership with SFH and RBC launch a Breast Cancer Awareness Initiative**

Access Bank (Rwanda) Ltd has partnered with Society for Family Health (SFH) and Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC) in a Breast Cancer Awareness Initiative. This is in recognition that women are an important asset to the Rwandan society as they consist of a large percentage of the population. Implementation of this initiative is also a commitment to women empowerment to contribute towards a sustainable and profitable future of Rwanda.

Jean Claude Karayenzi, the Managing Director of Access Bank (Rwanda) Ltd said that the initiative is dedicated to the health of women. “According to the World Health Organization, more than one million women die of breast cancer annually. To promote the well-being and development of women, the provision of breast cancer solutions is important. Assisting women to access loans together with helping them overcome health barriers constitute a good way to support them towards financial stability and growth,” added Karayenzi.

Dr.Francois Uwinyindi, the Director of Cancer Diseases Unit at Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC) said that the responsibility should not only remain with the government, but everyone should play a role in raising breast cancer awareness since prevention is better. “There are a lot of challenges in fighting breast cancer and for us to effectively fight it, early detection is vital. Women are more exposed to get Breast Cancer and hence regular checkup is advised to reduce the number of cases,” he added.

Janet Opio, the Executive Director at Society for Family Health (SFH) said that breast cancer is the most common cancer among women. Getting regular checkups can lower the risk of dying. “Breast Cancer screening can help find the cancer early when it is easier to treat. If you have any signs like change in the size of the breast, pain in any area of the breast, it is better to go for early checkups and get treated”, she added.

While most women always go to the hospital when the cancer is at an advanced and incurable stage, the initiative was meant to encourage early and regular self-examinations, as this will reduce financial instability for women and their families in a long run.