

# Varsity hosts first inter-universities paediatric workshop

Leading Paediatricians from the Universities of Nairobi, Makerere, Dar-es-Salaam and Zambia recently gathered at the University of Nairobi in an effort to draw up a teaching curriculum to be used in their respective Universities with special emphasis on Primary Health Care (PHC) and Social Paediatrics.

The experts, comprising of Deans, Chairmen and fellows of Faculties of Medicine from the four regional Universities also undertook to evaluate the priority health problems in the region.

Speaking to the Varsity Focus, the Regional Director of the programme who is also a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Paediatrics University of Nairobi, Dr. Gabriel Anabwani, said the experts agreed to start a vigorous programme to train a core of effective teachers on Social Paediatrics within the framework of Primary Health Care (PHC) in the respective regional Universities. He added that the Departments of Paediatrics in the region shall extend collaboration within themselves and to other regions of the world.

Opening the three weeks workshop, the Principal of the college of Health Sciences Professor N.O. Bwibo observed that the majority of children live in rural areas where they are unable to reach health care facilities. He called on the experts to involve their students in the concept of Primary Health Care which he said shall help health care services to be more widely distributed.

Prof. N.O. Bwibo further urged the participants to address themselves to the growing problems of street children, child prostitution and sexual exploitation.

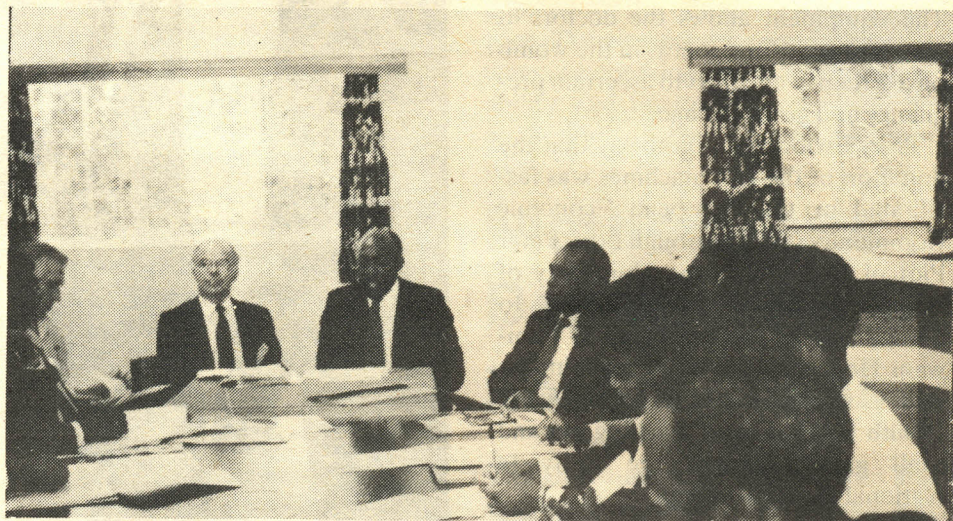
The Ministry of Culture and Social Services, he went on to say, should address itself to the changing needs of the Children population adding that mentally retarded and handicapped

children died in the past. "These children now survive and require special care," he noted.

Prof. Bwibo cautioned mothers whom he said discontinue breastfeeding of young children leaving them to maids in 'an environment that is not conducive to good growth and development'. He lamented that changes in lifestyles such as increased broken families, single parenthood, unemployment, slums, teenage pregnancy, delinquency and drug abuse all lead to new priority health problems and urged for a new curriculum and

teaching to reflect the changes.

The Deans of Faculties of Medicine present included Prof. H. Pamba (Nairobi), Prof. R. Wwor (Makerere), Prof. J. Makene (Dar-es-Salaam) and Dr. K. Mukelebai (Lusaka). The Departmental (Paediatrics) chairmen present were Prof. J. Meme (Nairobi), Prof. R. Mbisi (Dar-es-Salaam), Prof. C. Ndugua (Makerere) and Dr. K. MuKelebai (Lusaka). The workshop, which was sponsored by CIDA, was also attended by Dr. Christopher Wood who is the Director General of AMREF and Prof. Donald and Elizabeth Hilman, a couple from the memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada.



*Participants in a Working Session during the Paediatric Workshop.*

## Surveying seminar to be held

The Department of Surveying and Photogrammetry is scheduled to mount a five day seminar in Photogrammetry and Remoting Sensing for staff of the Department of Forestry. The Seminar, which will be attended by 16 participants, is sponsored by Food and Agriculture Organisation and United Nations Development Programme in conjunction with the Kenya Government.

Among the topics to be covered are remote sensing, the electromagnetic Spectrum, Resolution, Overlaps and Stereovision test. The Seminar is part

and parcel of the Department of Forestry's policy to equip staff with knowledge to manage forest plantation inventory effectively.

Commenting on the seminar, the Chairman of the Department of Surveying and Photogrammetry Mr. D.K. Macoco, said it would establish good links between the University and the University. Prof. R.S. Rostom and Mr. J.K. Yego will be the Seminar Instructors while Mr. S.W. Kimani and Mr. J.K. Yaa will serve as demonstrators.