

Department members pay courtesy call on the DMS

On the 29th January, 2015, professors Stephen Ogendo and Pankaj Jani paid a courtesy call on the Director of Medical Services Dr. Nicholas Muraguri in his office. The call had three objectives;

1. Discussion on the upcoming WHO World Health assembly meeting in Geneva. On the agenda for this meeting is the proposal to declare surgery as a Primary Health Issue
2. The upcoming Health Ministers meeting in Uganda
3. Improvements in surgical human resource in Kenya

The WHA serves as the decision-making organ for the WHO and its meetings are attended by all WHO Member States of which Kenya is one.

The WHA has a number of programs related to surgery and these include;

With respect to surgery the big issue that is upcoming is on the emerging WHO resolution “ *Emergency and Essential Surgical Care (EESC) through strengthening health systems, achieving universal health coverage, and ensuring the safety and efficacy of clinical procedures in Anesthesia, Surgery, Orthopedics, and Obstetrics*”.

This resolution has been tabled for the agenda for the 67th World Health Assembly that will be taking place from the 19th to the 24th of May 2015 . the first ever resolution on Surgery by the WHO. The two professors requested inclusion in the Kenyan delegation is assist in driving this agenda. The director responded he would discuss this internally and see if it is possible.

As for the Health Ministers Meeting in Uganda, as a preliminary for the May WHO meeting it was requested if there was a possibility of a side meeting to sensitise the ministers. This also was to be looked in to as the ministers support was critical in driving this agenda.

Finally personnel are a pressing issue for the country and discussions on how the Kenyatta National Hospital, COSECSA and the University of Nairobi could work together in increasing the manpower numbers was discussed. To this the DMS was very encouraging and the issue will be further followed up between the parties.

Finally the DMS informed his visitors of the ministry plans to improve service delivery in the counties. The DMS disclosed plans to revamp health services in the country at a cost of 4 billion over the next 10 years. This would be used to supply all counties with equipment, set up six IUC beds in at least 14 hospital amongst other improvements. This development would be financed through public private partnership.