



University of Nairobi in partnership with Ministry of Health at National and County level to improve Medical Education & Research in Kenya

The Partnership for Innovative Medical Education in Kenya (PRIME-K) program is the Kenyan initiative of the Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI). PRIME-K hosted the MEPI site visit team led by the National Institutes of Health representative Dr Myat Htoo Razak accompanied by Prof. Mwapatsa Mipando from University of Malawi and Dr. Huda Ayas representative from George Washington University in Nairobi between March 3rd to 5th 2015. During the first day of the site visit, the program held a meeting at Sarova Panafric Hotel in Nairobi, with Ministry of Health officials, led by the Director of Medical Services, Dr. Nicholas Muraguri. The meeting was attended by 75 participants that included the County Executives of Health, County Directors of Health and the Medical Superintendents from the 18 decentralized training sites that are collaborating with PRIME-K. Others in attendance were; University of Washington, University of Maryland, Baltimore, Kenyatta University and Maseno University representatives. University of Nairobi PRIME-K team was led by the Principal Investigator, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage and the Director, Dr. Onesmus Gachuno.

In his speech, Dr. Muraguri outlined one of the Ministry of Health's strategic plan to supporting two County referral hospitals in every County. He emphasized that exposure of students to the rural sites and e-

learning approach by University of Nairobi will ultimately address retention of health workers in the areas where there is most need and hence improve the health outcomes in the country. He appreciated the Linked Maternal Newborn Child Health project because through it, the challenge of maternal and newborn mortality will be addressed in terms of research and finding out ways of improving the health of newborn.

On behalf of the County Health Directors, Dr. Siminyu outlined the role of County government in support of the health system. He said that Counties have recognized the importance of partnerships such as PRIME-K to develop counties in order to achieve improved health outcomes of its people. He said the County Executives Health can influence governors through Public Private Partnership to construct hostels for students in support of their accommodation during decentralized training.

Prof Kibwage, thanked the MEPI visiting team and the Ministry of Health officials for their continued support to the program. He welcomed the MEPI site visit team to conduct the annual documentation of the progress made by the program. He highlighted that some of the notable outcomes in the decentralized training include onsite training of hospital staff, increased opportunities for hands on students' learning and site led research.

