

UoN Launches HIV/AIDS Policy



Vice-chancellor, Prof. G.A.O. Magoha and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (A&F), Prof. P.M.F. Mbithi, sample some of the HIV information materials issued to staff.

The University of Nairobi (UoN) launched its HIV/AIDS policy in December 2005 to step up its fight against HIV/AIDS. The University has put a policy in place for prevention, control, care and support for those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS.

Along with the policy, UoN is among the first local institutions of higher learning to have developed an HIV/AIDS curriculum for its staff and students. The launch served as confirmation of UoN as a leading institution that continues to give direction on matters of national importance.

The Policy is designed to address the challenges of HIV/AIDS at the University of Nairobi. The University is committed to operationalize this policy to meet the challenges caused by the pandemic. The policy stresses the urgency of engaging in accelerated and concerted efforts in prevention, control and support.

The fight against HIV/AIDS is highlighted in the UoN Strategic Plan 2005-2010 that was launched last year as one of the challenges that face the University of Nairobi. Among the strategies highlighted in the plan is the implementation of an HIV/AIDS Policy and Curriculum.

The HIV/AIDS Curriculum was implemented in the 2005/2006 academic year. The course is offered to

all first year students under the stewardship of the Board of Common Undergraduate Courses.

The policy incorporates education, testing, integrated counseling, full medical cover for HIV/AIDS treatment, including ARVS for members of staff, their dependants and the community. The policy states that no person shall be discriminated on account of his/her HIV status.

The policy also envisages research on HIV/AIDS related issues and incorporates both social and scientific approaches. It includes continuous planning, monitoring and evaluation of its programmes and activities. The Vice-Chancellor pledged to ensure the implementation and sustainability of the policy.

Support for developing this policy came from UNICEF who funded a workshop that came up with the draft policy, CIDA by sponsoring the publication of the policy document and NACC who through the Commission for Higher Education funded HIV/AIDS student activities and offered KShs 400,000 in support of the launch.

UoN has been lauded for pioneering in the launch of HIV/AIDS Policy and Curriculum. Kenyan medics singled out the University for commendation during their 34th Scientific Conference held between 19th and 23rd, April 2006 at Eldoret.



Members of staff receive HIV materials