

On July 7th, a team from the School of Medicine lead by the dean, Prof. Wilson Odero, paid a courtesy call on the Governor of Vihiga County. H.H. W. K. Ottichilo.



*Figure 1. Prof Odero and team in discussion with Governor and his team*

The aim of the visit was to affirm commitment to an ongoing memoranda of understanding signed between the two institutions in 2015 and to assure the county of a continued long term commitment to this relationship. In this regard Maseno wished to look at, and further develop, four areas of collaboration between the school and the county. The four areas were;

1. In accordance with the MOU, the school enhances collaboration in the areas of training and clinical services. In this regard, the school was interested in assisting the County in clinical service delivery, especially with specialised clinics and continued professional development. For the former, it was suggested that the two institutions take advantage of the speciality variability between us and share their services. For example there are one neurosurgeon and one cardiologist between the two facilities that can be shared.
2. Request from the County the use of Vihiga County Referral Hospital as a centre for training of our Family Medicine postgraduate students.
3. Collaborate in research activities with the County. In this respect particular mention was made of oncological research.
4. Use of other peripheral facilities within the County for training of our undergraduate students as well as for medical camps.

The Governor welcomed the Maseno team and gave his commitment to enhancing the MOU between the two institutions. He said this arrangement would elevate the quantity and quality of human resource within the county.

He informed the meeting this was in conformity with his commitment on entering office, to improved clinical services and public health within the County.

He informed the Maseno team of his achievements in health so far and this included;

1. Commencement of construction of a 160 bed Medical Plaza. In addition to inpatient beds this would house laboratory and teaching facilities.
2. Renovation of other infrastructure within the hospital.
3. Acquisition of new medical equipment.
4. Plan to establish a cancer centre.
5. Equipping sub-county hospitals.
6. Enhancing the activity of Community Health Volunteers by insuring them as well as providing them with some basic tools to facilitate their activities.

In attendance at the meeting were;

1. A team from Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology.
2. USAID-HRH
3. County Director of Health
4. Chief Officer of Medical Services
5. Executive Committee Member
6. Medical Superintendent of Vihiga County Referral Hospital