

CLINICAL STUDIES WELFARE GROUP, 8th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ON THURSDAY MAY 10, 2012: CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

The CSWG was formed 8 years ago with the two objectives;

- i. To promote the welfare of the members of the group and
- ii. To strengthen relationships between the members of the group

I am therefore pleased to be a part of the leadership of this esteemed welfare group over the past 12 months. As the Welfare Group has been recognized as a model within the University of Nairobi, a number of notable achievements are in order.

Membership to the welfare group improved from the previous year (51) to the current number of over 60 members. This represents a high percentage of staff members who have joined the group. The few members who have not joined have their constitutional right of (no) association. I also respect the fact that some of the individuals who have not joined might not be qualified (suitable) to join for one reason or another. The welfare group, however, remains open to all new members of staff who believes our policies and mandate, and are willing to adhere to the constitution of the group and our great nation of Kenya.

The past 12 months have been extremely good for the welfare, as no illness or death visited any member or their immediate family. However, it is likely that some members might have faced some challenges in their families and social networks. We thank the Lord Almighty for taking care of the members and their families in good health and abundance of provisions.

Several members of the welfare group achieved appointments and promotions in different sectors (public-private) sectors of the society. These include; a

Prof. Njenga Munene: DVC Egerton University

Prof. Charles M. Mulei: Acting Dean of Faculty; Board Member Kenya Veterinary Board

Dr. John D. Mande: Kenya Veterinary Board,

Prof Susan Mbugua: – Board of Trustees Kenya Veterinary Association:

Dr. Jafred Kitaa: – Hon Treasurer; Prof. George Gitau- Committee Member, KVA Executive

Dr. Andrew Thaiyah, Dr. James Nguhiu and Dr. Daniel Gakuya: Senior Lecturer.

I congratulate these individuals on their appointment and looks forward to a fruitful year ahead of us. I also encourage the rest of the members to aspire for greater achievements, through hard work, prayer and teamwork.

Loans attracted a lot of interest largely due to competitive interest rates and the enhanced maximum loan award from the original KSh 15,000 to the current KSh 100,000. This resulted in major cash flow challenges and delays in processing loan applications. The executive

committee at one time unable to maintain the recommended cash reserve of KSh 100,000. In order to promote the culture of saving, a proposal will be presented at this AGM to amend the constitution in order to review the monthly contributions.

In the last AGM, the executive committee was allowed to levy 1% from the loan application. This was meant to offset administrative expenses incurred by the welfare group. This amount does not in any way meet the anticipated costs of the mandatory functions of the welfare group; including an enhanced Christmas Party. The group should re-define itself to ensure that it remains a viable institution in future. In particular, the cost of managing its activities should be determined and a budget allocated. While most of the functions offered by the committee members will remain a charity and service to the group, members should be made aware (and to bear) the cost of its operations, whether logistical, mileage, telephone or improved menu on parties and other social events. The token of appreciation should also be reviewed in light of the additional member of the executive committee as allowed in the constitution.

I wish to appreciate the support and guidance provided by the former (Founder) Chairman, Dr Gakuya. In fact, the committee has benefitted from his networks in organizing the Christmas parties and as well as serving as a reliable reference to the bank whenever there were issues to be clarified. I wish him well as he retires from leadership and request him to continue supporting the policies and programme of the welfare group in future.

As we retire today, we are available for re-election. However, in order to promote competitive leadership, members should exercise their democratic rights to freely and fairly appoint good leaders to manage the resources and affairs of the welfare group. As we grow out of the Founder Members syndrome (7-8 years), the welfare group should elect leaders with fresh ideas and proposals on enhancing loans, inclusive Christmas parties, and options for investments, savings and incomes.

I wish to appreciate Dr Victor Tsuma, Dr. John Muthee, Dr. Daniel Gakuya, Ms Rachel Gitau and Mrs. Jane Onsongo for the diligent work of service. I also appreciate the support and understanding given to me by all the members of the welfare group. I wish the incoming executive committee a fruitful year of service, prosperity, good health and long life.

GOD BLESS CDWG

DR. DEMESI MANDE

CHAIRMAN, CLINICAL STUDIES WELFARE GROUP