

**Welcome address by Chairman, Department of Public Health Pharmacology and Toxicology during ODEL sensitization and orientation workshop on held in the department on March 3, 2011,**

The Principal, CAVS; Dean, FVM; Director, Centre for ODEL program, UoN,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me take this opportunity to welcome you to the Odel sensitization and orientation workshop for the Department of Public Health, Pharmacology and Toxicology.

I wish to sincerely thank you madam Principal for agreeing to come and preside over the opening of this workshop. I know you have sacrificed your valuable time to make it here today.

Madam principal, the Department of PHPT offers the following four masters programs on a full time basis:

1. Master of Veterinary Public Health
2. Master of Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics
3. Master of Science in Pharmacology and Toxicology
4. Master of Science in Natural Products and Bioprospecting.

Enrolment to these programs has been low over time that they have been offered. This may be attributed among other things, to lack of time for potential applicants to attend the courses as are only offered on a full time basis. Many of the prospective clients to these programs are professionals already established in their jobs, who may not wish to leave for 2-3 years to pursue further studies, or are unable to get study leave.

The Department has for some time now been longing to design and deliver these masters programs through Odel mode as per University policy. However, this has remained just a mirage due to the fact that staff members do not have the required skills and competencies to design and deliver academic programs using this mode.

We realized that staff need the basic but essential training to acquire the required skills and competencies if they have to design and implement ODEL programs.

It is with this background that we sought advice from the Director CODEL programs-Dr Kidombo, who candidly outlined the essential requirements and steps to be taken by department to successfully design and deliver ODEL programs.

These steps involve a sensitization and orientation workshop to be followed by a series of in depth training workshops on how to unpack our training materials and their conversion and formatting for ODEL delivery.

This particular workshop is therefore the first of a series of workshops we intend to organize for staff to prepare them to undertake the design and implementation of ODEL version of our postgraduate programs

It is my hope that the University, College and Faculty will support this initiative to enable us complete the required training sessions as advised by ODEL experts.

It is my hope as well that all staff will take this training seriously in order to achieve the expected outcomes.

I now take this opportunity to invite the principal CAVS to give her remarks.

**Prof. Jackson N. Ombui**

Chairman, Department of Public Health Pharmacology and Toxicology.