

FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR MKAPA FELLOWS ALUMNI

The first annual general meeting for Mkapa Fellows Alumni Association (MFAA) was held on 20th November, 2009 at Millennium Towers in Kijitonyama. The meeting was launched by Dr. Deo Mtasiwa the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for MOHSW under the representation of Dr. Donan Mbanda, Director of Preventive Services. Present in the opening ceremony was the Chief Executive Officer of the Benjamin William Mkapa HIV/AIDS Foundation, Dr. Ellen M. Senkoro.

In his [speech](#) to officiate the 1st AGM for the MFAA, as read by Dr. Mmbando on behalf of the CMO, he insisted that much as there are many alumni in the world which are formed by people with certain similar characteristics, the MFAA is a unique one due to the fact that it is composed of a group of health professionals who have special experiences of the real life challenges of this country including the critical shortage of health workforce which affect HIV and AIDS service delivery and the overall health system.

Forty one (41) member representatives attended this crucial meeting which was facilitated by Mkapa Foundation, experts from Ford Foundation Alumni and CHATER Consultants.

Apart from electing the secretariat for the MFAA, the meeting was tasked to discuss and approve the constitution and deliberate on the annual work plan for the association.

In this respect, the AGM accomplishments were as outlined below:

Objectives of the Meeting

The objectives of the meeting included:

- Presentation of the constitution
- Review the role of leadership in moving forward MFAA activities
- Election of the executive committee
- Formulate recommendations for the way forward for MFAA
- Formulate Annual Work Plan for MFAA

Presentation of the Constitution

An overview of the MFAA constitution was done. All parts and articles of the [constitution](#) were discussed amongst members who attended the meeting and ultimately the document was approved.



Photo of Fellows listening to the facilitator during MFAA launching ceremony

Role of Leadership

As a critical part in the art of management, leadership session was facilitated. And in order to harness from experiential learning angle, it was also sought to compare the formation of Ford Foundation Alumni and MFAA.

It was further emphasized that in associations like MFAA, the following qualities of leadership are fundamental:

- **Self drive:** A leader should be self motivated
- **Volunteerism:** Successful leadership is inevitably accompanied with the spirit of volunteerism. A leader is expected to put in personal time for the sake of the association
- **Focus:** The leader should keep the association focused by being innovative. There should be activities to be done by the association all the time.

- Adherence to constitution: Adhering to all parts of the constitution is crucial. This together with having regular meetings as stipulated by the constitution so as to keep the association alive.

Election of MFAA Leaders

This activity was aimed at having in place the Executive Committee of MFAA which is constitutionally mandated to guarantee livelihood of the association by accomplishing the deliberated [way forward](#) and action plan as per the MFAA objectives.

After agreeing on the election procedures, the election process took place whereby nine (9) members were approved to form the [executive committee](#). The 9 members elected were:

- i. Dr. Alexander Christopher-President
- ii. Ms.Prisca Elisha- Vice Chairperson
- iii. Dr. Joseph Gasper-Secretary
- iv. Ms Apia Chambo-Vice Secretary
- v. Dr. Ukio Kusirye-Tresurer
- vi. Ms.Saida Mbaruku-Assistant Tresurer
- vii. Mr.Horas Mbugani-Member
- viii. Mr. Gideon lukindo-Member
- ix. Ms.Faith Msangi-Member

The Executive Committee as listed above are office bearers for the term of 3 years.