

By Aisia Rweyemamu

IN an effort to improve and strengthen the nursing profession in the country, the Tanzania National Nurses' Association (TANNA) and Colom Foundation Inc have entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for joint efforts in organizing and conducting additional programs for nurses.

Speaking yesterday in Dar es Salaam at a press conference, the president of TANNA Paul Magesa

said the training program will take place at Dixie State University (DSU) in the United States starting next year.

The DSU in collaboration with Colom Foundation will offer intense maternal, new born and pediatric nursing education for Tanzania registered nurses.

"Training will provide specialized continuous nursing education that is quite significant in enhancing nurses understanding in key health aspects," he said

Magesa said that in order to stay

competitive and actively respond to the challenge of rapid globalization of health care services, the promotion of nurses' professional skills is vital.

Intense educational experience in the classroom, nursing at laboratory level, simulation laboratory facilities and hospital community clinical settings will build upon previously acquired training and skills, he said.

This will also provide an opportunity for a rich exchange of nursing knowledge, cultural understanding among DSU

nursing faculty and students, and Tanzanian nurses who will participate.

According to TANNA, the training shall involve a few of its members, who will be sensitive in realizing how significant it is to impart the knowledge acquired to others in the nursing profession.

The program will require the trainees to teach in preselected Tanzanian universities one course for one year to transfer the knowledge they gained to others.

The arrangement is a way of giving back to the Tanzanian

society, failure of which will result in strict penalties to the trainees.

The president said Colom Foundation will be covering costs of transportation to and from the US, while Dixie State and the State of Utah will help with tuition fees and other costs such as accommodation for the full period of the course.

He explained that in ensuring proper selection of trainees the committee will be formed by mixed members from the two partners and be placed in charge of conducting the of trainees by

competitive methods.

This would ensure they list the most qualified trainees reflecting the needs of the training.

For his part the head of Colom Foundation, Wilbur Colom said upon entering into this partnership, as a businessman in Tanzania it is his responsibility as a good neighbor to help develop this nation and be of benefit to those around them.

"As a stakeholder in healthcare we appreciate the importance of well trained nurses. This is a noble purpose," the director stated.

Wilbur said his support to Tanzania will not end by supporting the health sector but he is also committed to continue supporting other areas for community development.

TANNA was encouraging other institutions to imitate this good example for the improvement and strengthening of the nursing profession in the country.

TANNA is the national professional organization of enrolled and registered nurses in Tanzania, with 29 branches across the country.