**Overhaul health statutes DMS**

By JEFF OTIENO

Most legislation governing health provisions in Kenya is archaic and

requires changes to correspond to the dynamic health sector, the Director of Medical Services said yesterday.

Dr James Mwanzia said there were about 30 such laws in need of an overhaul. "Some of the legislation on drugs, health services can be traced back to the colonial days, " he said.

He said only amendments had taken place but these were inadequate

in the current health sector. The Medical Services boss said there were plans to invite a team of lawyers to liaise with the Ministry of Health in reviewing the legislation to come up with appropriate recommendations.

Most of the review, he said, will be done at the Ministry of Health

headquarters.

He was speaking during the opening ceremony of a two-day

TB/HIV /Aids Integration Workshop at the Pan Afric Hotel, Nairobi.

Kenya, the Director said, was at the initial stages of implementing the health sector reforms to include reorganisation and the restructuring

of the Health Ministry.

"The restructuring at the central level has resulted in the creation of six key departments out of the previous 36, " he said.

Dr Mwanzia said health sector reforms in Kenya were in line with Kenya's Health Policy Framework of November 1994.

The public health sector should not cater for those who can pay for the services elsewhere but rather for the poor, whose numbers,

said, were increasing day by day

Under the health reforms hospitals would be given more autonomy in the provision of medic services and spending of funds.

Results of a recent research indicated there was a strong link between tuberculosis and Aids, he said, adding that the increase in TB was mainly in the 15-39 age group as was the case in HIV trends.

The regional World Health Organisation Representative,

Paul Chuke, said in a speech presented on his behalf by a WHO

official that Aids and tuberculosis were among the classical new and

reemerging communicable diseases challenging every country in the world today.

World Health Organization Disease Control Officer Dr D. M. Mutie (left) chats with Dr. S. Abdullah and Dr A. Kutwa of the National Tuberculosis Leprosy Programme during the opening of a WHO/UNAids and TB/HIV integration workshop at the Pan Africa Hotel yesterday.(Picture by S. MUSOKE)