UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. PETER M. F. MBITHI, DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES AT EDUCATION THEATRE II ON THURSDAY JUNE 23, 2016

Deputy Vice-Chancellors

Principals

Deputy Principals

Deans and Directors

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me pleasure to preside over the launch of the following four flagship programmes geared towards the fulfilment of the Kenya Vision 2030 objectives. The programmes which will be using Open, Distance learning in print and e-learning modes are:

  i. **Master of Science in Pharmacology and Toxicology**
 ii. **Master of Science in Climate Change**
iii. **Postgraduate Diploma/Master of Science in Energy Management**
 iv. **Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Education**

The programmes were developed by the Center for Open and Distance Learning with collaboration between the Centre for e-Learning, and the Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering (CAE), Department of Public Health, Pharmacology & Toxicology (CAVS), Department of Meteorology (CBPS) and Department of Communications Technology at School of Education (CEES).

Ladies and Gentlemen, each of these programmes has objectives geared towards the attainment of the Kenya Vision 2030 goals. The Master of Science in pharmacology and toxicology will provide knowledge and skills in production and improvement of Animals and Human health.

The Master of Science in Climate change will develop capacity to manage climate change and adaptation science and practice for the transformation of lives and habits in Kenya and beyond.

The Postgraduate Diploma/Master of science in energy management will produce professionals with appropriate knowledge and skills to carry out

research in Energy Management and implementation and evaluation of Energy Management Projects
On the other hand, the Bachelor of education in Early Childhood education will develop the capacity to manage educational provision for early childhood, explore issues and trends in the development of early childhood education and design and carry out research in early childhood education.

The launch of these four programmes brings to ten the total numbers of academic programmes dedicated to the fulfilment of the Kenya vision 2030 flagship project.

I am happy to note that the development of learning materials for delivering these courses has been made possible by the capacity of the Centre for Open and Distance Learning, the use of a well-developed e–Learning Portal in the University website and learner support available at the Extra-Mural Centres and University Campuses countrywide. This shows that the University of Nairobi is ready and committed to developing Open, Distance and e-Learning materials

for diversifying, enhancing and enriching our delivery modes of higher education.

The University of Nairobi as a world class institution must remain at the forefront in the utilization of educational technology for delivery of Higher education and management of the University. Today as we launch these programmes and other developments that we have in the open, distance and e-learning instructional materials, we should encourage our students to utilize the online resources, open educational resources and well-trained tutors for support through the e-learning portal. This will enable the University to effectively offer its programmes beyond our campuses and national borders.

The use of these technologies will not only benefit our students but also help the University improve in its ranking. In addition, it will ease the load on the teaching staff to enable them undertake research for creation of new knowledge.

Ladies and Gentlemen, with those few remarks, it is now my pleasure to declare the following programmes officially launched:

i. **Master of Science in pharmacology and toxicology at CAVS**
ii. **Master of Science in Climate change at CBPS**
iii. **Postgraduate diploma/Master of science in energy management at CAE**
iv. **Bachelor of education in Early childhood education at School of Education, CEES**

Thank You