REMARKS BY PROF JACOB KAIMENYI, CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE ACU CONFERENCE ON ENHANCING GENDER EQUITY IN THE LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION ON MONDAY, 26 AUGUST 2013 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, TAIFA HALL
Vice-Chancellor, Prof. George Magoha

Key Note Speakers

Distinguished Scholars

Ladies and gentlemen
It is my great pleasure and honor to be with you on this important occasion of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) Conference on “Enhancing Gender Equity in the Leadership and Management of Higher Education”. This is a significant Conference, for two reasons: first, it marks the Association of Commonwealth Universities centenary celebrations, which are taking place in various Commonwealth countries; and, secondly, it is the first time that the ACU is holding this celebrations in Africa.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Association of Commonwealth Universities’ centenary celebrations which are taking place in various Commonwealth countries, are as a result of the determination, hard work and dedication of various stakeholders to maintain the professional networks within the commonwealth countries to be active, beneficial and relevant. I am aware that that this conference is the culmination of a gender conference held in early 2012, in Sri Lanka, which resolved that gender conferences would be held in other countries in order to create
awareness on gender issues and the concerns facing higher education around the globe.

Ladies and gentlemen, the theme of this one day conference is quite relevant in our country Kenya as we seek to address issues of gender equity and equality, among other diversity concerns, in the education sector. It is my understanding that the gender and education stakeholders present here, represent different countries in Africa and the world, and are able to share information, brainstorm and deliberate on appropriate strategies, emerging issues and policies which can help to foster the achievement of quality education here in Africa.

Again, I am delighted that the Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop on gender has attracted over 50 participants from various Universities, higher education institutions, commissions and other organizations in Africa. I hope that the participants will abide by the design of the workshop to cascade the training, knowledge, skills and benefits to others in their respective countries and institutions.
Ladies and gentlemen, the timing of this conference could not have come at a more appropriate time, indeed, here in Kenya; student’s enrollment in educational institutions has increased tremendously, and the demand for higher education has been quite amazing. I wish to reiterate that as a country, we are gender sensitive in all our operations and our 30% rule on gender equity in employment is being followed in all the sectors of our economy. In the education sector, we have achieved gender equity in different segments and departments, especially as we are implementing policies which are sensitive to diversity including gender at every stage.

Indeed, In line with Kenya Vision 2030, we are addressing educational issues in order to ensure that Kenyan children, at all levels, acquire, quality, relevant and applicable education. Our higher education institutions are committed to maintaining quality in the delivery of programmes, which can only stand us in good stead in the global competition.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to challenge the education stakeholders present to do more to
mainstream gender and diversity; away from the numbers that we are reporting have enrolled, what is the quality of education, mentoring and nurturing that they are receiving. Let us not forget that gender is a construct and that we should not merely replace women with gender. The challenge is that as we raise more girls, we should not forget the boy child.

As I conclude my remarks, I wish to appreciate the ACU professional network led by Dorothy Garland, Dr.Anne Gold and the Kenyan team led by Dr.Anne Aseey who ensured that the centenary celebration events are a success. I also appreciate the enormous support from the University of Nairobi administration led by Prof. G.O.Magoha, and various sponsors, to make this conference a success.

It is my pleasure to declare this conference officially opened.

Thank you.