French Minister Visits UoN

The Minister of State Development and Francophonie, Hon. Andre Vallini, on Friday, August 26, 2016 through the Sub-department of French at the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) delivered a public lecture as well as paid a courtesy call on the Vice Chancellor.

Hon. Andre Vallini interacted with the University of Nairobi students who are studying French. The French Minister said that the main objective of the interaction with the students and his visit is to expand the study and the use of French. He said his role as a Minister is to defend and promote francophonie not only in French-speaking countries but also English-speaking ones.

Hon. Vallini said that their Minister of Education has put up an Alliance Francaise in France that will enhance students and staff exchange programme between Kenya and France. He added that The French Development Agency (AFD) and the Ministry of Education have signed an MoU that will enhance education of French in Kenya and particularly in the University of Nairobi.

He applauded the availability of a resource center at the sub-department of French that is supporting and training the trainers of French at CHSS.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, in his welcoming remarks, said that he was privileged to welcome and host the first Minister of France to come to the University of Nairobi. Prof. Mbithi acknowledged the long partnerships that the University has had with the French government. The Student and staff exchange programme, capacity building, enhancing of cultural relations and use of language for development have been among the achievements from the collaboration.

Prof. Mbithi said that his leadership and the University is committed to strengthen the partnership, citing the fact that internationalization and experiential learning is in line with the University’s Strategic Plan.

French Development Agency representatives, French Embassy, Prof. Henry Mutoro, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Enos Njeru, Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Jane Mutiga, Director, Centre for Translation and Interpretation, Prof. William Ogara, Director, Center for International Programmes and Links, Dr. Bilha Mwenesi, Chairman, Sub-department of French, Mr. Johnson Kinyua, Director, University Advancement were present during the Courtesy call.