UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

OPENING REMARKS BY PROF. PETER M.F. MBITHI, VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, DURING THE PUBLIC DEBATE ON EUROBOND HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2016 AT 6.00 P.M. IN TAIFA HALL.
The Cabinet Secretary, National Treasury,
The Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya,
Controller of Budgets,
Distinguished Guests,
Staff and students,
Ladies and Gentlemen
It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the University of Nairobi, the pioneer institution of university education in Kenya – and indeed the premier university in the region.

We are hosting this important debate here in partnership with others because we have a mission to embody the aspirations of the Kenyan people through creation and transmission of sound knowledge. Indeed, we are an institution committed to scholarly excellence. This is one goal we pursue by providing quality education and training to our community of students and scholars.
Throughout the period of our existence, this Taifa Hall has provided the space for policy, academic and scientific debates on major issues in this country, the region and the global community. Over the years, this Taifa Hall has been the centre for debating not only development problems and challenges in Kenya and the region, but also solutions. We host these debates in the belief that scientific knowledge is a critical pillar for sustainable development.

Today we are here again providing this space for a national conversation. We are providing a space for a decent, credible, and objective debate on Kenya’s Eurobond. The aim of this debate is to clarify the issues and answers because in the last
few months, there has been unending public discussions on the issuance of the Eurobond.

We welcome you to this debate recognizing that many scholars here would be interested in carrying out research on some of the issues raised. This on its own implies that this debate is one form of scientific inquiry. Because of this, we welcome you to make comments that add value to our endeavour as a community that is always seeking knowledge to address development problems.
It is our hope that today’s debate will clarify the key issues and answers.

I welcome you all to this debate. I request that we debate in sobriety so that our community of scholars can identify issues for policy research as well as future academic research.

Thank you.

PETER M.F MBITHI, PhD, EBS
VICE-CHANCELLOR
AND
PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY SURGERY