REMARKS BY PROF. PETER M.F. MBITHI, VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE RESEARCH GRANTS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (RGMIS) HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2016 AT THE CENTRAL CATERING UNIT (CCU) AT 9.35 A.M.
Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor (A&F)
Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor (RPE)
Ladies and Gentlemen,
I wish to welcome you all to this official launch of the University of Nairobi’s Research Grants Management Information System (RGMIS), which has been developed by our own staff and which I am assured is ready for roll out.

The University of Nairobi (UoN) has over the years established itself as a dynamic and fast growing institution of higher learning within the region and globally. In this regard, student enrollment, both at undergraduate and post graduate levels, has drastically increased.
Successful grants applications have also increased tremendously in the last 10 years, standing at KES 4 Billion by the end of 2015. Inevitably therefore, and to improve its competitive edge among institutions of higher learning locally and globally, the university has had to continue embracing technological advancement in infrastructure and IT development, and in particular as it relates to research and grants management.

To this end, the University of Nairobi, in its 2013-2018 Strategic Plan and Research Policy 2013 undertook to develop a Research Grants Management Information System (RG-MIS) which among other benefits will improve
the University ranking on the global arena with the central command function and improve on tracking and monitoring of ongoing and pending grant proposals.

One of the hallmarks of world-class universities is the level, quality and nature of research undertaken by their students, staff and research affiliates.

World-class universities also have elaborate research supporting structures in place which facilitate grant seeking, grant management and research output.
The University has for the last two (2) years now, been engaged in the development of the Research Grants Management information system (RGMIS) through its ICT center. This has been in consultation with key stakeholders in research management, i.e. the Deputy Vice Chancellor - Research Production and Extension office, Finance Grants Management office, the Principal Researcher representatives from the colleges and the University Management Board.

The developed system is therefore a representation of the consolidated collected requirements from the key stakeholders through discussion forums and demonstrations.
The objective of developing and implementing this system are as follows:

a) To increase the number of successful proposals by closely monitoring the pre-award activities pertaining to call opportunities

b) To maintain an accurate and easily retrievable record of the grants project, their milestones, financials and other non-financial information.

c) To enhance tracking and communication of any project grant documentation to all stakeholders
d) To track projects from Proposals to completion with an enhanced on-time donor reporting

e) To provide accurate on-time grants Financial reports by University Financial systems integration and any other grant related management reports

f) To provide management with reports to aid in continuous process improvement.

I am assured that the full implementation of the Management System will see the University meeting the above objectives.
Further the RGMIS is expected to have a huge impact on the management of research grants with the potential to propel the University in attaining the 30% annual growth rate in research grants as set out in its strategic Plan (2013-2018).

I thank the University Management, donors, Steering Committee, Technical Committee and all others who were involved in making this exercise a success.
With those remarks, it is my pleasure to formally launch the Research Grants Management Information System.

Thank you and God Bless you.

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