UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

REMARKS BY PROF. PETER M. F. MBITHI, VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI DURING THE HANDING OVER OF GRABBED LAND TO UON BY EACC, HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2019 AT 10.30 A.M.
• Arch-Bishop (Rtd) Eluid Wabukala, Chairman of Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission,
• The Chair of University of Nairobi, Prof. Julia Ojiambo
• The Chief Executive Officer of EACC, Twalib Mbarak,
• The Director of Public Prosecutions, Noordin Ali
• Members of the University community,
• Members of the Media,
• Stakeholders Present,
• Invited Guests,
• Ladies and gentlemen
We have quite often been warned never to celebrate victory over corruption because it is a monster that fights back and you can never be sure if your win is real until everybody is sure. But today I am happy that we have won!
It is one of those rare occasions in this country that should embolden us to fight this monster that has continued to eat into the soul of our society like a scourge.

Historically Land grabbing and politics are the oil that sustains the corruption machines in Kenya. The land grabbing merchants are shameless, heartless and brave.
They are the lords of impunity in this country. Victory against corruption and impunity is therefore well deserved however small it may be.

The successful recovery of land parcel no.1/55/1 measuring 0.2469 hectares with a market value of about Kenya shillings two billion is a clear manifestation that if all institutions and if all Kenyans remain vigilant and support the agencies that spearhead
the anti corruption crusade then we can reclaim our lost pride as a country.

In 2010 we received information that a company by the name M/s Aberades Engineering Contractors Limited had purportedly obtained grant No. 112612 for the development of land parcel LR NO. 1/514.
We immediately notified the Ministry of Lands and placed a caveat emptor and signage indicating that the parcel belongs to the University of Nairobi.

On May 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2011 we received a notice from the grabber’s advocate to move out of the parcel within 21 days or face the consequences including being taken to the court of law.
We did not give in and they consequently took us to court. They did not stop there! They sought the assistance of political elites to intervene but being a university that cherishes integrity as a core value, we rejected their overtures.

Allow me therefore to sincerely thank all the teams and the agencies that worked together with us, the EACC and the Ministry of Lands and others to ensure that this
property is recovered and surrendered to its rightful owner (The University of Nairobi).

You all agree that corruption is the biggest impediment to our national development. The people of Kenya must learn to embrace integrity in order to regain their lost dignity. We must do some soul searching and stop celebrating and honoring thieves as heroes!
Mahatma Gandhi in his seven social sins proclamation warned us that wealth without work is immoral. My countrymen I urge you to work and earn what you deserve.

Thank you.

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