UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

OPENING REMARKS BY PROF. PETER M. F. MBITHI, VICE CHANCELLOR, DURING THE TRAINING/SENSITIZATION OF THE UNIVERSITY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES ON NATIONAL VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNANCE IN THE UNIVERSITY HELD AT THE CCU ON FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2017
• Our Training Facilitators from the Directorate of National Cohesion and Values

• Members of the University Management

• Invited Guests

• Ladies and Gentlemen
The University of Nairobi has in recent years been keen in implementing measures to promote realization of National Cohesion and National Values.

As part of its compliance with the Constitutional Provisions on National Values, the University has reviewed and aligned 21 policies with the Constitution of Kenya.

In the recent past, the University top management, i.e. both the University Management Board and the Senate have been sensitized on National Cohesion and
National Values. Sensitization of the University Senate took place at the Central Catering Unit in March, 2015.

In a separate development, three committee members attended a three days training on National Cohesion and National Values in Kisumu Hotel, from 20-23rd, April, 2015.
University’s support to the national agenda

Honoring of patriotic Kenyans by establishing centers of excellence to carry on the work they started e.g. Establishment of Wangari Maathai Institute to enhance environmental sustainability.

Continuous involvement in key state programmes and projects e.g. Intellectual input in development of various national policies.
National Unity

As part of its role in National Cohesion, the University has striven to ensure that its hiring practices reflect the face of Kenya, by being an equal opportunity employer and extending employment opportunities to the marginalized communities.

The University has been very active in promoting national unity, a case in point being the Garissa University College terror attacks. The university took a leading role in providing support to the victims and relatives of those affected.
Research that addresses Societal Challenges

The University has undertaken focused research to solve societal challenges e.g. food security (drought resistant crops, bio-fertilizers & alternative farming methods), general security (Peace education & conflict resolution), and health challenges (lead researchers in AIDS/HIV) among others.
There has also been multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approach to issues related to education- Staff, students and stakeholders work together to achieve the University mandate.

Rule of Law

The University has observed constitutional, legal and statutory requirements. This has been through the compliance with public service code of conduct, public officer’s Ethics Act, Anti-Corruption Act, the Constitution, Universities rules and Regulations and other laws.
Further, the University has been keen on adherence to provisions of Public Procurement and Disposal Act, Employment Act, Formulation of University Statutes, adherence to all Traffic rules and regulation for government vehicles, adherence to provisions of income tax Act and the NSSF Act and Continuous implementation of rules and regulations governing students upon admission to graduation.
Democracy and participation of the people

The University continuously encourages staff and students to engage in choosing their leadership both internally and nationally. Further, the University’s decisions are made through a committee system- The University council, Senate and standing committees are established as per University Charter and Statutes.
Equity

Fairness, impartiality and justice in all decisions and actions like the Procurement Process where an Open tender system is used and advertisement of University tenders are done in local dailies and PPOA website. All University job advertisements indicate that the University is an equal opportunity employer.

Equality

To mainstream gender and disability issues, the University has operationalized gender and disability committees which spearhead the implementation of
various issues related to gender and disability. Gender balance currently stands at 34% and 66% for female and male respectively. On empowerment of marginalized groups, KShs. 180 million worth of tenders have been awarded to youth, women and persons with disabilities and a total of 400 youths have been involved in attachment, internships and apprenticeship programmes of the University.
Integrity

Inclusion of integrity as a core value in the University customer service delivery charter. There has been vetting of staff who take up key postings in the University.

The University has also operationalized Corruption Prevention Committees and developed a corruption prevention plan. The University has organized sensitization forums of staff on Anti-corruption strategies. The EACC in collaboration with the University trained Integrity officers in October, 2015.
Transparency and accountability

The University prepares its budget in a participatory approach and operates a balanced budget. The University prepares and submits to KENAO its annual financial and accounts reports by August 31 each year as stipulated by law where Audit certificates for each year are duly awarded. All financial and accounts reports are presented to the Public Investment Committee of Parliament each year and are available for public scrutiny.
Sustainable development

The University has developed and operationalized its environmental policy and included sustainable development as one of the core values in the service delivery charter. Environmental Impact Assessment has been carried out for all capital development projects e.g. UoN Kisumu campus, UoN towers and Pharmacy building, Construction of incinerators in various Units of the University e.g. UHS and CHS.
The UoN Environmental Sustainability Committee has been established and operationalized to spearhead coordination of activities related to environmental sustainability.

There also has been continuous sensitization of staff and students on matters related to environmental sustainability. Other efforts include the construction of a bio-digester plant in CAVS in collaboration with Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.
The University has also planted of over 20,000 trees with a survival rate of 94% over the last two years.

Other activities related to the environment include: Establishment of Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies; Establishment of Institute for Climate Change and Adaptation to teach postgraduate students drawn from the continent; Mounting of Master of Arts degree programme in Peace education; Mounting of PhD programme in Environmental law; Undertaking riparian strategies on Chiromo river; Collaborating with partners and
stakeholders to carry out CSR activities; University is one of the key partners in the establishment of Total Kenya Eco-Challenge; Segregated dustbins to cater for the different categories of waste and harvesting of water.

Today’s training/sensitization is therefore aimed at improving awareness among members of the University on various aspects of National Values and National Cohesion. The training will equip members with the necessary skills and knowledge, which will
help them in conducting sensitization of University staff on National Cohesion and National Values.

Ultimately, National Cohesion and national Values will become the central rallying pillars in the planning and execution of national programs for sustainable development.
With those remarks, it is now my pleasure to declare this training/sensitization officially open.

Thank you.

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