UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

REMARKS BY PROF. PETER M. F. MBITHI, THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, DURING A PANEL DISCUSSION ORGANIZED BY TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL ON “THE GAINS AGAINST GRAFT IN A NEW CONSTITUTIONAL DISPENSATION” HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2019 AT 4.00 P.M. IN CHANDARIA AUDITORIUM
Panelists

Invited guests

Ladies and gentlemen
Good afternoon,

"I believe that integrity is the solution to our development challenges".

This event that brings us together today makes me happy in a special way, it touches on “Gains against Graft” a subject that I have always been keen to follow and contribute.
Generally speaking, corruption covers an entire host of abuses, of which graft is one. It corrodes the fabric of society and undermines people’s trust in political and economic systems, institutions and leaders. Graft has a negative effect on inequality and the provision of basic services but it affects the poor people more disproportionately. It leads to reduced legitimacy and lack of confidence in public institutions. Consequently, it can cost people their freedom, health, wealth and
sometimes their lives. Corruption, as a whole, is a global problem that requires concerted efforts.

The passage of the 2010 constitution, to me, still feels like a miraculous achievement and those who had lived to witness the situation before the rare constitutional moment in 2010 will bear me witness. For sure it is a reformist constitution that was meant to, among many
others; eliminate graft which had plagued our nation for many decades.

Courtesy of our new constitutional dispensation, we have recently been witnessing significant gains from various agencies towards reducing graft in Kenya.

One of the key pillars for development under the new constitution is devolution. Devolution as a system of
governance was adopted to advance our political progression and good governance. We need to strengthen institutional systems that work towards preventing corruption. Anti-graft measures are most effective when other contextual factors support them. To win this fight, we require the concerted attention of both governments and the citizens to successfully address graft.
As Joe Biden puts it, “Fighting corruption is not just good governance. It is self-defense. It is patriotism”. Let us be patriotic and fight graft which is the enemy number one of good governance and development.

Lastly, ladies and gentlemen,

I take this special opportunity to thank Transparency International for their enthusiasm towards fighting corruption. I hope you will sustain the pulse in
pressuring leaders and individuals bestowed with public trust to take strong action against corruption.

Remarkably, you have managed to do so in more than 100 counties in which you have created your Chapters. Congratulations! Keep it up! We are privileged to partner with you now and in future programs.
Thank you.

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AND
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