REMARKS BY PROF. PETER M.F. MBITHI, VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI DURING THE CAPACITY BUILDING ON CORRUPTION PREVENTION, ETHICS AND INTEGRITY FOR STUDENT WELFARE AUTHORITY STAFF OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI WORKSHOP HELD ON FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2016 AT CENTRAL CATERING UNIT (CCU) AT 8.30 A.M.
The Organizers,

Training Facilitators,

Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,
It is indeed a great honour to join you today in this capacity building session on Corruption Prevention, Ethics and Integrity. I am informed that this session targets members of staff from the Students Welfare Authority (SWA).

Corruption is the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. It hurts everyone who depends on the integrity of people in positions of authority. As you are aware, the University has put in place mechanisms to eradicate corruption in order to improve service delivery.

The Student Welfare Authority at the University is mandated to provide catering and accommodation services to students.
Indeed these services are crucial for the well being of our students.

Ladies and gentlemen, a number of corruption risks areas in SWA have been identified. The areas that will be discussed further during this sensitization include:-

A. HALLS
The room allocation process which is characterized by the following:
- Not declaring all available space for personal interest
- Ignoring procedures during room allocation
- Colluding of staff with students to cover up unauthorized allocation
• Receiving payment in favour of giving rooms
• Manipulation of the room allocation system
• Clearing students who owe the university money

B. CATERING
• Not accounting for food sales
• Not keeping proper food/store records
• Providing free meals
• Wastage through pilferage during production, receiving, storage and issuance of food stuff.

C. MAINTENANCE
• Hiring casuals un-procedurally
• Delay in maintenance of plant and equipment
• Delay in responding to requests
• Taking longer time to complete a task so that one is paid more money.
• Accepting low quality materials
• Requesting more materials than needed
• Long waits for repairs
• Poor maintenance of buildings

D. FINANCIAL INTEGRITY
• Delay in processing payments.

E. PERSONNEL
• Delays in recruitment and promotion
• Canvassing to employ friends / relatives
• Absenteeism from work
• Misuse of transport
• Ineffective supervision

PROCUREMENT
• Delay in delivering items
• Awarding tenders to relatives/friends
• Receiving kickbacks
• Conflict of interest

RECORDS
• Misuse of official information
• Using confidential information to further personal interest
Ladies and gentlemen, it is my hope that in this sensitization, solutions will be identified and a way forward drafted. The objectives of these solutions will only be realized if we, as the staff members working in SWA, adopt and implement them. Among the proposed items in the way forward is to enforce transparency in online room allocation system (HAMIS), enforce rules and regulations governing students’ residential Code of Conduct, operationalise the Catering Management Information System and to introduce use of smart cards for use by students in order to reduce handling of cash.

Other measures include the effective supervision of staff, handling records with integrity, complying with QMS
procedure for allocation (UON/OP/38 and procedure for providing catering services (UON/OP/39 and most importantly, adhering to our core values.

As members of staff in the University, we are mandated to embrace professionalism. This can only be done by not discriminating against any person but instead carrying out our duties in a manner that maintains public confidence and integrity of the office.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are expected to maintain high standards of performance and level of professionalism. In addition, taking personal responsibility for the consequences of any actions/omissions is key.
As I conclude my remarks, I wish you fruitful deliberations during this sensitization. Remember: integrity is personal. I hope that this training will enable you to have a paradigm shift and be men and women of integrity.

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