UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

REMARKS BY PROF. PETER M.F. MBITHI, VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI DURING THE FORUM FOR SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE YOUTH, WOMEN AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2018 IN CENTRAL CATERING UNIT AT 7.30 A.M.
• Deputy Vice Chancellors Present

• Heads of Units

• Suppliers

• Students

• Ladies and Gentlemen
It gives me great pleasure to join you today on this occasion of sensitization for youth, women and persons with disabilities on affirmative action. Affirmative action is a policy of providing special opportunities for and favoring members of a disadvantaged group who suffer from discrimination.
I am happy to be part of you today in executing a requirement in this financial year of the performance contracting indicators for access to government procurement opportunities.

As you are aware, in the year 2013, His Excellency the President Uhuru Kenyatta directed that the procurement rules be amended to allow 30 per cent of contracts to be given to the youth, women and
persons with disabilities without competition from established firms

This affirmative action aims at empowering youth, women and persons with disabilities owned enterprises by giving them more opportunities to do business with the University of Nairobi and the Government at large.
Through creation of business opportunities for youth, the government of Kenya is transforming the lives of young people. The following has also been achieved through the programmes on 30% held for the youth in the University of Nairobi:

- It has made youth to be financially independent
- The acquisition of skills helps youth to be morally and ethically upright and sound.
• There has been exposure to peers who are positive role models and who have shown resilience in the face of adversity.

• Many youth have developed positive coping and problem solving skills

• Youths have been able to identify their strengths and personal potential.

• Increased confidence and developing a sense of personal agency to influence own future.
FORMS OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

- Use of the one third gender rule
- Girls entry point to university is lower than that of boys creating a chance for the girls to be at a level playing field with boys
- Empowerment of Youth, Women and Persons With Disabilities (Uptake of 30% of procurement tenders)
Employment of the 5% disabled

PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING AND THE INDICATOR OF EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTH, WOMEN AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The indicator of Empowerment of Youth, Women and Persons with Disabilities was put on the University performance contract from the financial year
2014/2015. In the financial year 2017/2018, the University of Nairobi is expected to award kshs.238 million to the special groups. It is for this reason that the University has organised a sensitization workshop to create awareness and prequalify the special groups.
The University of Nairobi is committed to implementing affirmative action as a way of supporting the youth as a government initiative.

With those few remarks I wish to officially open this symposium and wish you a fruitful deliberations.

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