UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. GEORGE A.O. MAGOHA DURING THE NATIONAL OPENING OF THE 2ND STUDENT-LED CONFERENCE AT THE 8-4-4 AUDITORIUM, COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND VETERINARY SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI THURSDAY 5, 2014 AT 9.00 A.M.
• Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science & Technology
• The Vice Chancellor University of Nairobi
• Vice Chancellors present
• Principals of Constituent Colleges
• Vice President World University
• President African University Sports Festival
• University of Nairobi Management
• Distinguished guests
• Sportsmen and women
• Ladies and Gentlemen
Allow me to welcome you to the University of Nairobi in the heartland of our great country Kenya. These games are happening at a time when leaders of this great continent are at cross-roads and have realized that the unity of Africa is imperative for the survival of a continent with such great potential. Indeed the theme of these games “Peace and solidarity in Africa through varsity Sport” was informed by this need for solidarity.

We in Africa share a common ancestry where conflict has been a way of life. This has slowed the potential of our great people. While other people can afford to look and have nothing to offer, we at the University cannot afford to sit back. We must but the provable leaders who must come out
to stand and be counted. This must start off at the level of the undergraduate who have not yet been influenced by the dogma of the older self created statesmen.

The seventh all African University sports festival provides an opportunity for you the participants to share, network and initiate friendship that will hopeful play a part in the Africa of the future. For Inter-collegiate games to be useful it must seek to deal with or provide for the following opportunities: One, sports provides opportunities for leadership; I hope all of you participants will act in the best interest of what these games stand for by showing fail play in every game you will participate in.
Secondly, intercollegiate games remain drug free. The use of enhancements to beat the other players must never be allowed to creep into university sports.

Thirdly, sports is a multi-million dollar industry. This is due to the fact that professional are leaving off sport. I do hope some of you can end up earning large in the sports.

Fourthly, the African women have been left behind by women from the other continent in every sphere including sports. I hope these games will provide a forum for our ladies to be able to formally take their place in this competitive world.
Finally, these games have provided a forum for the challenged athlete. Mr. Cabinet secretary, after this ceremony we shall have the opportunity to watch a sitting volleyball game. This is our way of saying we care.

This is the coldest season of Nairobi; however allow me to wish you all warm and successful Games.
Like the speakers before me, allow me to also welcome you most cordially to this great country Kenya.

Kenya is a country with a long and rich tradition of sport participation and achievement. Many say we are a sport crazy nation. We have enjoyed international successes in recent years. Mention sports in Kenya anywhere and the idea of track athletics will come to one’s mind. Our middle and long distance athletes have continued to firmly put Kenya and by extension Africa on the world stage.

In rugby sevens team Kenya has also proved to the world that Kenya is a power house. This is why Kenya is mentioned in the same breath as Fiji, Samoa and even South Africa,
countries that have enjoyed tremendous achievements on the rugby pitch.

You may have discovered in your hotel rooms that we have more televised sport round the clock than most countries. It tells you the government of Kenya is serious about sports.

In Kenya Universities, sports is considered an important part of the everyday life of a student. This ministry in charge of education on gives charters to institutions that have shown they have made provision for the student to recreate. As I look around here today I am reminded once again of just how passionate students are about sports and what great competitors you all are. One of the consistencies I see when
I watch students play at the university is the love African students have for sports. And what a great thing sport is on so many levels.

Beyond the obvious health and activity benefits, sport can teach us much about life. It teaches us about teamwork, it teaches us how to get along with others, and it teaches us to work together to achieve a common goal. It’s also about trust and responsibility and about dealing with success and failure.

This is the reason why this year’s theme “Peace and Solidarity in Africa through University Sports” is a testament that Africa needs to unite. It is a reality that our continent
desires for more peace initiatives to enable us realize the African dream, that of oneness, togetherness, enjoyment and peaceful co-existence.

Sports also help us learn about coping with pressure and the need to stick with training in order to improve. As well as the benefits to individuals, sports and physical activity also bring great benefits to communities through such things as improved health and education, rehabilitation, crime prevention, and gender equality.

It is in this same spirit that I feel greatly honored to be part of this auspicious event.
The Seventh edition of FASU all African games is an excellent way to bring Africa together in a relaxed environment that will build lasting networks and friendships across the continent.

I congratulate the organizers and particularly the Chief host Professor George Magoha, FASU organizing committee, the technical coordinators and The University of Nairobi in entirety and other members of the organizing team who have done a great job in putting together today’s program.

And now it only leaves me to wish all competitors good luck and to declare 7th All Africa University Games officially open.