UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

SPEECH BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. GEORGE A. MAGOHA, DURING A PUBLIC LECTURE BY SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMISSION ON JULY 28, 2014 IN TAIFA HALL AT 2.00 P.M
Speaker of the Senate, Hon. Ekwee Ethuro
Hon. Senators
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen
On Behalf of the University of Nairobi, I welcome you to this round table breakfast organized by the “construction of knowledge societies: Implementation of the Constitution 2010” project team. The project is a collaboration between universities and the private sector to present an innovative way of breathing life into the constitution.

Ladies and gentlemen, “Construction of knowledge societies” is the core of the university mandate.
Through the production of critical thinkers, construction of knowledge societies gives a glimpse of what universities can do, given the right environment. Through research, innovative engagement and guided curiosity, universities prepare students to become change agents in their communities. The implementation of constitution can be driven by universities working with communities. However, for this to happen it is critical for all of us to appreciate that today’s knowledge society is a fusion of new technologies, innovations and the emerging internet based
technologies that are providing fresh opportunities for the promotion and widening of public knowledge. Kenya constitution 2010 needs to be signified and presented in a manner that is understandable and which can be appreciated by all.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the University of Nairobi is very happy to host this round table breakfast for the senators. Your role in the implementation of constitution 2010 is crucial. We need to listen to each other, and this morning, we have an opportunity to hear your thoughts and your take of
where we are three years down the road of implementation. The project offers us an opportunity to look at education afresh and build knowledge blocks that will help Kenyans articulate their rights and responsibilities. “Construction of Knowledge Societies” thus, aims at empowering Kenyans for prosperity by equipping them with broad based knowledge on their citizenship, human rights, good governance, sustainable livelihoods and development.
Hon. Senators, the current project challenges each one of us to establish partnerships that will enable Kenyans look at the constitution and breathe life into the document, and through technology make it part of the national psyche. I am sure that together we can achieve the desired goal, which is the implementation of the constitution.

Hon. Senators, devolution is the leading light of the constitution 2010. For more equitable and faster socio-economic, political development of this Nation it is imperative that we implement devolution to the
letter. Your role, in this regard is to protect, guide counties, ensure equitable distribution of resources, oversight the utilization of these resources, ensure that socio-economic development takes root, is well monitored and that people’s participation is actualized. It is for this reason that your presence here today is highly appreciated. Your contributions to today’s discussion will go along in shaping the capacity building envisaged through “Elimika Uwajibike”.
I would like to appreciate the financial support from the Ford Foundation, and hope that the selected pilot counties will serve as models of knowledge societies. Once again, thank you for accepting our invitation and let us have a frank discussion on how best we can support the counties in understanding the new constitution, and the linkage between the constitution and wealth creation.

Thank you and welcome.