UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

TALKING POINTS FOR THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROF. GEORGE A.O. MAGOHA DURING THE PHD SUPERVISION TRAINING ON JUNE 17 – 19, 2014, AT THE CENTRAL CATERING UNIT AT 9.00 A.M
I am pleased to join you here today, during this training for academic staff on PhD supervision. I say this because the output of our programmes, is a quality PhD. We should not waste this important resource nor ignore it; to do so would denigrate our mandate on capacity development.

- Ladies and gentlemen, currently the University of Nairobi has about 700 registered PhD students. The university graduates between 40-50 PhDs per year. In 2013 we registered the highest number of PhD graduates and we graduated an all-time high number of PhDs. We therefore have the challenge to maintain our position as the leading university in the region in our output of the human resource required to run all sectors of the economy.

- One of the ways of tackling the challenge is to continue setting new standards in PhD education, I note that we have already set a target for ourselves to increase the
number of our PhD graduands from 40-50 per year to 100 PhDs per year over the next three years. For this reason, and in order to remain the leader in PhD training, any effort such as today’s training, has my full support.

- I wish however, to challenge all of us to not only look at the numbers we graduate but also the quality of the PhDs we produce to ensure that our graduates are internationally competitive. This implies that we set the pace for the UoN to implement an effective and efficient PhD supervision structure. This training today, which is the second session on PhD supervision training has therefore, come at an important time, a time when we must minimize inconsistencies and inefficiencies in the following areas of PhD supervision:

I. Rules and Regulations,
II. Administration procedures
III. Supervision/Examination,
IV. Preparedness of Ph.D. students,
V. Information/Communication

- The facilitators of this training, are a diversified group, ranging from relatively newly graduated doctorates to esteemed professor emeriti. Many of our trainees have taken part or all of their education abroad and have been exposed to other ways of conducting higher education and organizing university management. They have ideas on how to improve the system, but as individuals they may not possess enough authority to foster the changes that are now needed. This training thus will provide skills for supervision and impel attitudinal changes necessary for effectiveness in PhD training.
• I sincerely believe, that this training will also create understanding of the additional benefits derived from successful and satisfactory PhD training which will no doubt benefit the university in the future as the graduates take on positions of responsibility.

• I wish to thank the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, for taking the lead in developing facilitators who can take up PrePare training to others. When we hear of training consultants, we often think of outsiders being paid big sums to do a job, but we do not take advantage of the in-house consultants within the University. I thus want to thank Prof. Gathumbi, Wahome, and Bebora for actualizing the ToT programme and being present to share their insights in this untapped area of PhD supervision.
As I conclude, I wish to remind us that the University is committed to promoting good governance and efficient service delivery. Let us all drive the process of change with energy; this is the evidence of excellence. I wish you all fruitful training.

Thank you.