UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

SPEECH BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. GEORGE A. MAGOHA, DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 9TH BIENNIAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2014
• The Principal Secretary for Education, Science and Technology, Dr. Bellio Kipsang
• The Deputy-Vice Chancellor, Administration & Finance,
• The Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences
• The Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
• The Dean, Faculty of Agriculture
• The Chairman, and the Organizing Committee, the 9th Biennial Scientific Conference
• Professors, Lecturers and students
• Invited guests,
• Ladies and Gentlemen
It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to the University of Nairobi, and specifically to the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences for the 9th Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Biennial Scientific Conference and Exhibition.

Principal Secretary Sir, the University of Nairobi is committed to world class scholarly excellence by providing quality education through training, research and community service in the interest of the Kenyan people and the global community. The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine has since its establishment (1942), addressed the personnel needs of livestock farmers. Initially the Faculty offered Diploma level training but due to demand for highly trained personnel it
started offering a degree programme in veterinary science in July 1962. Since 1962 the Faculty has grown, producing veterinarians who are serving in various capacities in Government, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. In addition, due to the ever increasing demand in related fields, the Faculty has diversified its programmes to include wildlife management, fisheries and aquaculture, in leather technology and three diploma programmes in animal health and production, leather technology, veterinary public health and meat technology. In order to keep up with the global trends and requirements by the Commission for University Education and the University Senate, the Faculty has observed regular reviews of the
curriculum in order to ensure that our graduates remain relevant in the constantly changing environment.

Away from teaching, the departments offer clinical, diagnostic, consultancy, extension and advisory services nationally, regionally and internationally.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine is at the forefront in conducting research in livestock health and production, wildlife health and conservation and other related fields. Through research, the Faculty has produced technologies for control of livestock diseases and laboratory diagnostics. The Faculty is carrying out research which is multidisciplinary and value chain oriented. This research is
carried out through collaboration with various stakeholders that include development partners, Government ministries, communities, National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS), consultative groups in agricultural research centres such as ILRI and ICRAF, among others.

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Biennial Scientific Conference was started in 1988 as a forum to exchange research findings and information among researchers, students, veterinarians, and other relevant stakeholders in the livestock industry. This year’s conference theme “Enhancing livelihoods through improvement in animal health and production in a changing environment”, is in line with national, regional and global responses to endemic and
emerging diseases. Some of the re-emerging diseases, which are threat to the livestock industry, include anthrax, multidrug-resistant tuberculosis and Rift Valley fever. The conference has drawn participants locally and from neighboring countries such as Uganda, who are our partners in research in health and production of livestock.

I wish to challenge participants to continue to exchange ideas and strategies towards the common goal on animal health and production. I welcome the idea that other partners who are direct beneficiaries of most of the services, including and not limited to capacity building, are participating in a parallel exhibition to show-case the
products being applied by primary producers in livestock health and production.

Allow me at this juncture to appeal to the government for further collaboration and financial support to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in research and consultancy. The University has established mechanisms for prudent management of resources and will neither waste nor misuse financial assistance extended.

As I conclude my remarks, I wish to appreciate the Principal of the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, the Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and the Organizing Committee for coordinating this conference. In
addition, I also wish to thank the sponsors including: Brooke EA, the German Academic Exchange service (DAAD), and all other organizations, including pharmaceutical, feed and food industries who have supported this conference and exhibition.

I welcome you all to participate in this conference and look forward to three days of active interaction.

It is now my pleasure to invite you Honourable Principal Secretary to address this gathering and officially open the conference.

Thank you