UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

I welcome everybody to the launch of the University of Nairobi Website. I also take this opportunity to thank all heads of divisions for the extra effort put in the task to make today’s event possible.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the vision of the University of Nairobi is to become a world class University, committed to the promotion of academic achievement and excellence in research as an embodiment of the aspirations of the Kenyan people. We are however, unlikely to realize this
dream unless we embrace ICT. It is for that reason that I have been pleading with staff to avail to our ICT department information for posting on the University website.

This exercise, which I hoped would take a few months, has taken over one year. In the end, I have had to literally go to each College to oversee the website content upload.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we at the University of Nairobi must be at the forefront in the search and
discovery of new knowledge. It is not acceptable for us to be ranked behind Makerere University and the University of Dar-es-Salaam simply because we have refused to let others know what we have, and are either doing or capable of doing.

The launch of this website, therefore, is a step in the right direction because it will help us to share with the rest of the world what we have and assist us in our endeavour to join the ranks of modern Universities.
The old website which we are formally replacing today had a number of limitations, which made it difficult for the University to reflect most of its activities. Data in the website was minimal and the infrastructure could not allow easy updates. Ranking of the University of Nairobi as a consequence plummeted as evaluation of the Institution was based on what was available on our website at that time.

Our new website is designed to meet the expectations of our students, members of staff and
the general public. It endeavours to provide information on our staff, students, research activities, collaborations, and captures virtually all activities that we engage in on a daily basis. This will increase traffic as more users will find the site valuable hence marketing our institution.

To ensure that we offer timely and quality service to our clients, we have continued to upgrade our ICT infrastructure through acquisition of a data centre and storage area to enhance our capacity. These will hasten our journey towards paperless
communication to at least 50%. To boost use of internet in the University, all key officers have been provided with email addresses and are encouraged to promote this system of communication.

Ladies and Gentlemen, a website is an electronic brochure and a source of information available to the whole world 24 hours a day. In a website, we are gladly telling the world what we do, what we are interested in and what we can sell. It is,
therefore, our responsibility to sell ourselves to the public by availing information on all our activities.

The interactivity on the website generates a sense of ownership and participation in the user, binding them to the information much more than a traditional brochure. It is in our interest to establish this bond and sustain it through constant updating of our information.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our core business is teaching and research. It is for this reason that we
requested all academic staff to post their Curriculum Vitae (CVs) on our website to give a clear picture of their activities. For the few members who for one reason or another have not been able to provide this information, please make sure that you update and post your CVs on the website as soon as possible.

Your CVs on the internet will not only give a positive rating of the University of Nairobi but will expose your academic work to the entire world. The benefits of this exercise are self evident.
Our intention to post the CVs of our academic staff was therefore to highlight and promote their activities beyond our national borders, assist you in establishing other relationships that will generate opportunities and disseminate your work worldwide, expand customer base for your publications, reach out to new markets, improve our internal communication and our image.

As noted earlier, the challenges of redesigning this website were many and included lack of interest, support and commitment from some quarters. It
took a lot of extra effort and sacrifice from most of you, especially in the past one week, to reach this point. I take this opportunity to thank all those who have made this exercise a success, in particular the ICT department. The user departments and staff must also be commended for providing the information required. I wish to remind you though that we still have a lot of work to do on the website to ensure that most of the information is posted and updated continuously.
Last but not least, do not think that the website is not for you – it has changed society, entertainment and the way we do business. The future is digital and we cannot miss out.

With those few remarks Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my pleasure to declare this website officially launched.

Thank you.