UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. PETER M.F. MBITHI DURING THE WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY, 2016 CELEBRATIONS HELD AT THE GREAT COURT ON TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2016 AT 11.00 A.M.
Dr. Cleopa Mailu, Cabinet Secretary for Health

The WHO Country Representative,

Dr. Margaret Oduor, Director, Kenya National Blood Transfusion Service,

Staff and Students,

Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,
I take this opportunity to graciously welcome you all to the University of Nairobi, and specifically to this very important occasion of the celebrations of the World Blood Donor Day. This function, which the University has the honour of hosting, is being held in collaboration with the Kenya National Blood Transfusion Service, which is a unit within the Ministry of Health. The purpose of this Unit, essentially, is to collect, process and distribute blood and blood products to all transfusing hospitals in Kenya.

Other than being the premier government institution of higher learning in Kenya, the University of Nairobi has for several decades had a symbiotic and mutually
beneficial relationship with the Ministry of Health, through the Kenyatta National Hospital.

Over the years, the hospital has provided the “laboratory” where our College of Health Sciences trains its doctors. On the other hand, the hospital relies on our senior doctors and professors to manage its core specialized units, and our doctor interns spend time at the hospital before they are released to the market.
As part of its strategic positioning, the University appreciates that it occupies a position of great advantage that can be used in fostering linkages and partnerships with peer institutions, government and industry.

In this regard, it is important that the University operates in such a manner that mutual interests of all the parties are realized. In terms of today’s function, it has accorded us an opportunity for greater foregrounding while, we believe, also assisting in realizing the goals of the Kenya National Blood Transfusion Service (KNBTS), and by extension that of the Health Ministry.
This activity is also in line with the broader University guiding principles: connecting and inspiring the Kenyan Society; providing leadership and stewardship in Kenya’s development; and engaging stakeholders which entails creating networks that will promote everyone’s interests.

Finally, let me thank the organizers of this event, that is, the Kenya National Blood Transfusion Service for choosing to have the University of Nairobi host this important function. It is a demonstration of the high regard you have for this University which, on our part, we can only reciprocate by providing facilities and services of the expected standards. I believe we are up to it.
With those remarks, I wish you all the best as you proceed with the National Celebrations of the World Blood Donor Day.

Thank you.

PETER M.F MBITHI, PhD, EBS
VICE-CHANCELLOR
AND
PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY SURGERY