UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. PETER M.F. MBITHI DURING THE CELEBRATIONS TO MARK THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE (IDADA), HELD AT THE CHANCELLOR’S COURT ON FRIDAY JUNE 26, 2015 AT 9.00 A.M.
- Mr. John Mututho, Chairman NACADA,
- The Deputy Vice-Chancellors present,
- Invited guests,
- Staff and students,
- Ladies and Gentlemen
Let me start by welcoming you all to this important function when we are celebrating the International Day Against Drug Abuse. I want to thank you for joining us to remember all those who have been affected by Alcohol and Drug Abuse (ADA) and all those who are still struggling with the effects of Alcohol and Drug Abuse. A lot of work has been done but a real crisis still exists in many parts of the world including Kenya.

The international theme for this year’s IDADA is a message of hope: “DRUG USE DISORDERS ARE TREATABLE“
Today’s commemorative event is an appropriate recognition of the extraordinary progress made and an important reminder that the most profound challenge that still remains before us is to end this devastating vice in our society. However, we should be proud of how far we have come.

We appreciate with thanks the concerted efforts of many who have contributed immensely in ADA Prevention activities in our country. We have come a long way as stakeholders and we should continue to forge ahead to help to bring it to a halt.
The University of Nairobi has adopted a multi-disciplinary approach to curb the menace of ADA. The preventive intervention strategies include:

i Behavior change interventions such as Peer education programs;

ii Social/structural programs such as provision of sports and recreation facilities and Psychosocial support groups; and

iii Biomedical interventions including treatment of related illness (communicable and none communicable).
To strengthen these preventive activities, the University has also developed a Student Assistance Program (SAP) and an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) whose specific activities include sensitization campaigns to create awareness, health education sessions, training (Peer Counsellors/Educators), Guidance and counselling, orientation of students, appropriate referrals when specialized service is necessary and active participation in ADA prevention activities organized by the ADA sub-units and ADA clubs.

I urge the university community to be aware of the risks of Alcohol and Drug Abuse and the illicit trafficking of these substances. ADA can affect university operations, your studies, your health, families, employment, and your life in
general. It is better for you to cultivate and nurture good life habits and attitudes which are socially desirable and consistent with acceptable health practice. The University will continue to support all ADA prevention programmes and we expect each one of you to support and participate in the programmes that are rolled out.

The University works closely with NACADA and submits quarterly reports to this authority. We therefore thank NACADA for its continued support in training, IEC materials, guidance, and mentorship.
With those remarks, it is now my pleasure to invite our Guest of Honour Mr. John Mututho, Chairman of NACADA to give his speech.

Thank you all have a blessed day.

PROF. PETR M.F MBITHI, PhD, EBS
VICE CHANCELLOR

AND

PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY SURGERY