

**OFFICE OPENING:  
THE RDAB RETREAT  
MAANZONI LODGE  
AUGUST 16, 2013**

- **The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. G.A. Magoha**
  - **Deputy Vice-Chancellors**
  - **Principals**
  - **Members of RDAB**
  - **Ladies and Gentlemen**
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I am delighted that you have made time for this retreat, geared towards internalizing the policies that anchor the functions of the RDAB and the RPE Division as a whole.

As we all know, research is not only an original contribution to knowledge with the purpose of deepening understanding within the academic discipline, but is also a contribution to development, providing solutions to societal problems. While we may do research in order to achieve tenure and promotions, the real need for research is to translate research into practice so that the interactions between research, reflections, practice and policy moves us forward in terms of our knowledge base as well as development.

Therefore, the primary function of the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Production and Extension is to provide

strategic research direction and to manage the overall research performance as a core function of the University by maintaining and advancing the University's research profile, research training, technology transfer and commercialization of research outcomes.

The RPE Division provides research support and services to University of Nairobi researchers and postgraduate research students through its units, which are;

- Science and Technology Park
- Intellectual Property Management Office
- Centre for International Programmes and Links
- Board of Postgraduate Studies
- University of Nairobi Library
- University of Nairobi Press

The Research Development and Advisory Board plays an advisory role to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Production and Extension) on the functions and operations of the Research, Production and Extension Division on behalf of University Management.

The RDAB's membership is drawn from across all Colleges of the UoN, relevant units and from industry.

Ladies and gentlemen, at this stage I wish to highlight a few milestones that have been achieved since the inception of the RPE

Division which are intended to grow research at the University of Nairobi.

The University through RPE Division has reviewed the Research Policy and Intellectual Property Policy. These two policies have been approved and implementation has commenced.

Additionally, we have successfully developed a Plagiarism Policy and Open Access Policy which are intended to maintain high academic standards and integrity and to enhance dissemination of research outcome and improve visibility respectively.

Currently, the University is developing an Extension and Outreach Policy, an Awards Creativity Scheme and a Communication Policy. When completed these three policies will streamline how we engage with our stakeholders, strengthen our impact on uptake and utilization of knowledge that we have generated through research, innovation, creativity and recognition of our outstanding researchers.

In terms of building research capacity and growth the grant portfolio, the University through RPE in conjunction with UNES has provided training on Proposal and Grant writing to academic staff members. This initiative started in 2011/2012 academic year. To date we have trained a total of 424 staff members. Indeed the number of proposals submitted to NCST alone in the last year went

up from 49 to 105 which is an indication that there has been some positive growth in our research capacity and potentially our grant portfolio. We have also trained 35 academic staff on Ph.D. supervision with the aim of improving mentorship of postgraduate students and minimizing the throughput time of attaining a Ph.D. degree.

Additionally, the University through RPE successfully submitted a bid to be part of the DRUSSA programme which is geared towards improving uptake and utilization of our research outcomes. Within the DRUSSA programme, UoN has received 1 bursary for an M.Sc. programme and 1 Ph.D. bursary, both were awarded competitively to academic staff members.

The University has also subscribed to the Research Africa platform which provides information on funding opportunities. All staff members and students logged onto the UoN network can now access the platform and search for suitable funding opportunities.

The Division has developed a UoN Research Grants Management Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan forms the blueprint of research grants management at the UoN which will streamline the management of research processes from proposal development state to dissemination of findings to engaging and informing policy making.

The RPE Division has brought together a number of multi-disciplinary teams to respond to calls for research funding. We have already been successful in responding to these calls and are still working on others. We hope that this will inculcate a strong research culture at the UoN and create a vibrant research environment across all colleges.

The RPE Division is appreciative of the support that the Vice-Chancellor, the University Management and the RDAB have provided which has helped us to achieve these highlighted milestones and more.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my hope that this retreat which is intended to help us internalize policies that our functions are anchored on and brainstorm on best practices that will enable us to achieve more.

Thank you all for taking time to attend this retreat at such short notice. I look forward to your valuable contributions. It is my sincere hope that this will help us build a stronger research management structure within the University of Nairobi.

I now welcome the Vice-Chancellor to make his opening remarks.

Thank you.

