

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**REMARKS BY VICE-CHANCELLOR PROF. GEORGE A.
MAGOHA DURING THE GE DISTRIBUTED POWER
UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE AWARD CEREMONY AT THE 8-4-4
HALL ON JUNE 21, 2013**

Hon. Jacob Kaimenyi, Education Cabinet Secretary

Mr. John Rice, Vice-Chairman of GE, President and CEO of GE
Global Growth and Operations

Staff from GE

Dean, School of Engineering

Students

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

I take this opportunity on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor to welcome our guests to the University of Nairobi and to the GE Distributed Power (DP) challenge.

I am informed that the DP challenge is aimed at encouraging the development of innovative, affordable, adaptable low-tech solutions to provide power for local communities.

The University of Nairobi is committed to seeking and promoting such partnerships and linkages with like-minded stakeholders that will ultimately support our core functions as outlined in the University Strategic Plan 2013-2018 as well as support the development of our nation.

As such our academic and research activities are in sync with the objectives of the vision 2030 across the disciplines.

To demonstrate this commitment, our Fab Lab has partnered with Access Kenya to provide off grid power to rural households. Indeed, this is the project that has been selected for this challenge. Additionally the Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering is currently developing an MSc program in Solar Thermal Power. Our students have also been working on eco-friendly ideas in the aviation industry and on the use of biomass.

The project selected for the GE DP challenge is focused on wind energy. Through the Fab Lab, our students partnered with Access Energy, a small company providing off-grid power to rural households in Kenya via wind turbines. The students designed a means of remotely interrogating far flung wind turbines using a standard feature-mobile phone, and even switching power of for non-paying customers. This device was entered into the NASA Space Apps Global Competition and won the People's Choice Prize.

With these remarks, it is my pleasure to welcome GE Regional Representative, Deo Onyango to make his remarks. Welcome Mr. Onyango

Thank you