

**REMARKS:  
THE SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES POSTGRADUATE  
SEMINAR WEEK,  
JULY 14, 2014  
SBS, CHIROMO CAMPUS**

- Principal College of Biological and Physical Sciences, Prof. Bernard Aduda
  - Director, School of Biological Sciences
  - Colleagues
  - Ladies and gentlemen
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It is my pleasure to be with you today to attend this Postgraduate Seminar Week, July 2014

I am also delighted that you have made time for this very important forum of postgraduate seminar week, which is geared towards mentoring and sharpening research skills of postgraduate students within the School through seminar presentations.

Ladies and gentlemen, in the recent past we have seen several universities coming up in the country. This means that the demand for postgraduate training has risen and will continue to rise to serve the needs of the newer universities. According to the Ministry of Education Science and Technology, the higher education sector requires 2,500 PhDs to serve in public universities. This has increased the pressure on us (UoN), as the

oldest and the largest university in the country with the biggest training capacity to produce more postgraduates at masters and PhD level, without compromising on the quality of our graduates. The target of the University of Nairobi is to graduate 100 PhDs per year.

The UoN is already experiencing increased enrolment in postgraduate programmes at Masters and PhD level at UoN. We currently have approximately 13,000 postgraduate students and this number is expected to increase in the coming years due to the increasing demand for postgraduate education.

A number of initiatives have been taken to address the changes in our postgraduate programmes. One of the initiatives is that the Board of Postgraduate Studies has developed a postgraduate Handbook that will provide information to postgraduate students including the regulations governing postgraduate studies at UoN in a more user friendly format. The handbook is will be available to all postgraduate students and academic staff shortly.

The RPE Division has also developed the Research Notebook to help students record their research activities. While the Research Notebook is recommended for use by all students, it is important that the postgraduate students use the notebook as this is a

recognizable way of recording research ideas, undertakings, supervision meetings and any protectable innovation that may come up from their research.

A copy is being piloted to assist in teaching postgraduate students. I wish to remind all that they are expected to submit quarterly progress reports. This is mandatory.

Postgraduate students are also expected to publish a minimum of two publications before graduation.

Finally the Board of Postgraduate Studies is to be strengthened and expanded by transforming it into the Graduate School to create a greater capacity to effectively manage postgraduate programmes.

Ladies and gentlemen, seminars like this one should be encouraged to mentor and to sharpen skills among our students as it is through such seminars that research ideas are developed, information flow is improved and the focus of student research projects can get critiqued and repositioned to add value to academia as well as national development.

It is my hope that this postgraduate seminar week will help in building a strong strategy for postgraduate training as well as

strengthen the capacity of our postgraduate students within the School of Biological Sciences and the UoN.

Thank you.