

**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS:
THE WORLD BANK ACE II – UON PROPOSALS WRITE-SHOP
KCB LEADERSHIP CENTRE, KAREN NAIROBI
SEPTEMBER 15-18, 2015**

Good morning colleagues

First, I wish to thank you for the immense commitment that every one of you has shown in this journey of developing proposals for the World Bank ACEs.

Let me also thank the Vice-Chancellor for the support he has provided to my office and the teams since the teams started working on these proposals, as well as the College Principals for the facilitation provided to the teams.

In late 2014 and early this year we approached you and discussed the impending call for proposals from the World Bank for the establishment of ACEs in Southern and Eastern Africa, following the launch of World Bank ACEs in Western and Central Africa.

You willingly and enthusiastically accepted to take on the extra workload to work on these proposals. This week is the final leg of this journey, and again, you have set aside all your other responsibilities to come here to finalise the proposals.

I am aware that as we conclude this assignment, we have seven teams who have developed proposals across the general thematic areas of Agriculture, Health sciences and STEM;

1. Climate Smart Agriculture (CAVS) Lead: Prof. Raphael Wahome
2. One Health (CAVS) . Lead: Dr. Mbaabu Mathiu
3. Green Energy (CBPS) . Leads: Prof. Ogana/Prof. Mutua
4. Vaccine Research (CHS) . Lead: Prof. Omu Anzala
5. Product innovation (CAE) . Lead: Dr. Thomas Ochuku
6. Emerging and re-emerging diseases (CBPS, CEBIB) . Leader: Dr. George Obiero
7. ICT for Development (CBPS, SCI) . Lead: Prof. William Okelo-Odongo

You are now aware, after going over the submission papers over severally that we as UON must ensure that we submit proposals that are unique, addressing development challenges in our regions and beyond, focussing on capacity development, with demonstrable strategies that can successfully manage the change to excellence.

As we clean up and finalise these proposals, we also must ensure that the proposed centres are aimed at addressing these development challenges in line with our institutional and national strategic plans innovatively, avoiding overlaps and duplications as we also provide for sustainability of the proposed Centres.

Colleagues, I am aware that in the process of developing these proposals, you have identified issues that will require strong facilitation and support from the University management, which may involve slight or at times radical variation, even, of how we conduct business in our institution.

I certainly hope that during this week, you have been able to brainstorm through these matters and have come up with viable proposals. As such, we are here today to be able to discuss these matters and ensure a harmonised front as we submit our proposals to the World Bank.

I trust that the time you have had to finalise the proposals has been fruitful and that today's engagement with the Vice-Chancellor and management will enrich the documents that have been developed.

We certainly hope that favourable response to our proposals will be a worthy reward for all the effort that has been invested in these proposals.

Ladies and gentlemen, I now wish to invite the Vice-Chancellor to give his address before we can have a brief engagement on areas that may require clarification.

Thank you.