OPENING REMARKS:
THE RPE DIVISION TEAM BUILDING WORKSHOP
MAANZOLNI LODGE
NOVEMBER 27-29, 2014

- The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. G. Magoha
- Deputy Vice-Chancellors
- Delegates/participants
- Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted that you have made time to attend this team building workshop.

This team building workshop is an initiative to ensure that the units within the RPE Division refresh and recommit themselves on the mandate and functions of the Division and how it relates to other divisions. It is also to build and harness cohesiveness within the Division.

It is our hope that this forum shall also provide us with an appropriate platform to discuss key issues affecting the various units and to strategize on how to achieve our goals.
A number of changes have taken place in the last few years in the administrative structure of the University. As such, the University has also implemented a number of new and reviewed policies to enhance effectiveness and management within the re-organised structure. Just to mention a few, the University has revised the Research Policy and the IP Policy. In addition, we have also developed and implemented the UoN Open Access Policy, the UoN Policy on Plagiarism, the latest being the Extension Policy and the Communication Policy. We have also implemented the use of Research Notebooks by our postgraduate students and researchers as a process of protecting Intellectual property rights, as well as ensuring ethical conduct of research.

In addition, the University management recently approved the creation of the position of a Director of Research and Extension to enhance linkage between the RPE Division and the research units, the establishment of the UoN Innovation Fund of 25M per annum and the Creativity and Award Scheme to incentivise and support creativity and innovation. These have not yet been operationalised, however, it is my hope that they will be actualised soon.

This workshop will therefore provide us with the opportunity to brush up on the our core functions, update each other on how the
journey has been and strategise on future projections and in the process, strengthen team spirit within RPE Division. You have been invited to this team building workshop because of the unique roles that each one of you plays to enable the UoN undertake the critical functions in research management and administration.

At this juncture, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to seek your indulgence to inform you of the latest milestone in building research capacity and competitiveness within the University of Nairobi.

With the approval of the Vice-Chancellor, the University has subscribed to the Research Africa Platform which provides information on funding opportunities. All staff members and students logged into the UoN network can now access the platform and search for suitable funding opportunities. So far several training sessions have been undertaken across the University.

In addition, in an effort to implement the plagiarism policy, my office together with the Quality Assurance office in reviewing the research process to include originality testing to ensure that academic and research integrity is maintained. The University has received the anti-plagiarism software for 100 users free of charge
from a partner institution. Hopefully, the University will be able to increase the access licenses as we go along.

Currently a team is developing the UoN Incubation Policy which when completed and implemented will provide guidelines for the incubation of viable ideas and the transfer of technology by the University of Nairobi.

The RPE Division is appreciative of the support that the VC and the University management have provided, enabling us to achieve the highlighted milestones and more. It is my sincere hope that with the continued support, the Division will be able to roll out the Innovation Fund and the Creativity Award Scheme. I also hope that the position of the Director of Research & Extension will also be filled soon, to enhance effective management of University research and stakeholder engagements.

Thank you all for taking the time to be part of this team building workshop. I look forward to a better and stronger team that is passionate to make a positive impact within the Division and move the University of Nairobi forward.

It is now my humble task to welcome the VC to make his opening remarks.

Thank you.