



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

REMARKS BY PROF PETER M. F. MBITHI, DEPUTY VICE- CHANCELLOR (A & F). DURING THE OFFICIAL HANDING OVER OF THE KENYA SCIENCE TEACHERS COLLEGE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI ON 9TH OCTOBER, 2007

As you may be aware, in early 2007 the Government of Kenya approved the implementation of the Report by the Public Universities Inspection Board (PUIB), which was submitted to His Excellency the President on 25th April, 2007. One of the recommendations emanating from this Committee was that

the government expands facilities for University education in the country.

A steering committee was set up comprising the Ministry of Education, Commission for Higher Education, University of Nairobi and representatives of Kenya Science Teachers College. This Committee proposed that KSTC becomes a campus of the University of Nairobi.

The Government did approve the recommendation and the University was informed by the Ministry of Education that it would be taking over the Kenya Science Teachers College as a Campus College.

We are all aware that over the years, the demand for University education in the country has risen considerably,

without a commensurate rise in the number of vacancies available in public Universities to absorb the KCSE school leavers who qualify for University education.

Consequently, the cut off points for direct entry to University for KCSE candidates has continued to rise, with the grade moving from C+ in the mid-nineties to B+ in 2006. This was because the public universities' combined capacities was stagnating in the region of 10,000, in spite of the fact that more and more candidates were achieving the official qualifying grade of C+.

It is therefore highly commendable that the government found it prudent to convert some middle level colleges in the country to start offering degree programmes. Quite a number have

been converted to University Colleges, others like KSTC to University campuses

The University of Nairobi, through its college of Education and External Studies has for many years offered the B.Ed (Arts) course, admitting many students. Later on (around year 2000), the University started the B.Ed (Science) course, under the auspices of CEES but with the support of the Faculty of Science, CBPS. So far, the programme has been admitting only a few students largely because of operational logistics where the students belong to CEES but are essentially taught at CBPS.

The University was therefore glad to have the KSTC, which Management has ear-marked to be used for an expanded B.ED. Science course. The fact that the college was already

training secondary teachers at diploma level means that the basic infrastructure for teaching science teachers is already in place. The University has made arrangements to mount the B.Ed. (Science) degree programme, with the first batch of 150 students being admitted later this month.

In order to manage the activities of the campus, the University has appointed a Deputy Principal as the overall head of the campus in accordance with statute VIII. The Deputy Principal shall be assisted to run the campus by the following:-

- 1 Associate Dean, Education from CEES
- 1 Associate Dean, Science, from CBPS
- Chairmen of Departments of:-
 - Chemistry
 - Physics
 - Biology

- Mathematics
- Physical Education and Sports
- Computer Science; and
- An Administrator

Other details relating to staffing, management and financial issues are being addressed by the University in consultation with relevant arms of government.

Whereas the university will initially use the current facilities at KSTC as they are, in subsequent years, the University will construct adequate classes, laboratories and office blocks at the Kenya Science Campus.

The University intends to operate this campus as per guidelines and objectives of the current University of Nairobi

Strategic Plan (2005 – 2010). The Vision and Mission of the college have been modified accordingly, as follows:

VISION

To be a leading institution of training technologically advanced science and mathematics educators in an atmosphere of freedom and responsibility

MISSION

To produce highly qualified and competent Technical, Science and Mathematics teachers

With the handing over of KSTC to the University of Nairobi, the University has moved a step closer to achieving its goal of

enhancing academic leadership in diverse disciplines by remodeling all its academic programmes in order to make them competitive, relevant and student centered.

On behalf of the University of Nairobi Management, I take this opportunity to most profoundly thank the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Education, for making this college a campus of the University of Nairobi. We promise to make proper and maximum use of all the resources and assets therein to assist the University to meet its objects and functions, and to expand access to University education in line with Government policy.

With those remarks, it is my pleasure to officially receive this Campus College, on behalf of the University of Nairobi.

Thank you.