



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

REMARKS BY PROF. PETER M. F. MBITHI, DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (A&F), DURING THE WORKSHOP TO REVIEW THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL STUDIES, HELD AT KENYA WILDLIFE TRAINING INSTITUTE, NAIVASHA ON SEPTEMBER 18 – 22, 2011.

I am pleased to preside over this closing ceremony where the Department of Educational Studies has been holding a workshop to review the department's Strategic Plan for 2008 – 2013. This is one of the foremost departments to review their Strategic Plans in line with the corporate one.

The School of Continuing and Distance Education first held a workshop in the year 2004 and developed a strategic plan for the period 2005 – 2010. The Department of Educational Studies thereafter cascaded and developed its strategic plan also for the period 2005 -2010.

As a follow up to its first strategic plan, the School organised a workshop in June last year to review the Plan and align it to the University's and College's

Plan for the period 2008-2013, an exercise that was completed successfully. The Department of Educational Studies has therefore organized this workshop to review and align its strategic plan to the current University, College and School plans.

It is worthwhile to note that the practice of strategic planning embraced by the School and its Departments has served us well as evidenced by the attendant increase in enrolment and total revenue generated from Ksh. 97,000,000 to 574,802,689 in those six years.

These gains have not come without challenges. The Management Team for the departments' programmes remain small, while the area of jurisdiction has extended from 6 Regional Centres in 2004 to the current 12 with 47 contact points. There is also the challenge of infrastructure and branding which the University has to help overcome. Some of our Extra Mural Centres cannot be said to be representative of the face of the University and urgent intervention is required to ensure we don't continue losing out to our competitors.

The Department of Educational Studies' Strategic Plan will mainstream the vision of the School to be a Center of Excellence in the Provision of Distance, Adult and Continuing Education and related fields of knowledge by ODL.

I am informed that the Department has set its vision to be a (global) Centre of Excellence offering University Education by Open and Distance Learning (in the East African region and beyond).

Its Mission is recast, to be: to provide quality university education in the pursuit of developing professionalism using appropriate ODL technologies, innovative research and development, in partnership with relevant organizations for the betterment of society.

In order to realize the above Vision and Mission, certain shared values shall be nurtured. The Department has therefore undertaken to be guided by the following core values:

- 1. Democratization of quality education;**
- 2. The value of professionalism in the provision of education;**
- 3. Teamwork and participatory management in decision making;**
- 4. Creating a conducive environment for quality teaching, research and consultancy;**
- 5. The provision of learner support services that include academic and psychosocial guidance and counseling support to the learners;**
- 6. Building strong partnerships with all stakeholders;**
- 7. Creating a conducive environment for staff to achieve the highest level of performance through quality training, development and commensurate compensation;**
- 8. Good corporate governance;**
- 9. Respect for and conservation of the environment.**

It is important to note that while the School and College have been around for many years, increasingly in the recent past we have encountered greater and sustained competition from others offering same or similar programmes and opportunities.

It is therefore critical that we position the School of Continuing and Distance Education and the departments in the School, so as to continue to deliver within targets, operating within the Corporate Plan and the broad avenue of distance education. The school not only needs to be equal to the best challengers in the market, but be benchmarked with the best in the region and beyond.

It is my belief that your reviewed Strategic Plan will be in tandem with the School and College Strategic Plans, so that issues flow smoothly from above and from below.

As we come to the end of this workshop, therefore, it is expected that the Department will have a strategic plan that will successfully guide its operations for the next five (5) years. This will ensure that it continues to efficiently manage resources to discharge its mandate while maintaining its position of leadership in an environment of intense competition from other universities and institutions of higher learning.

The Department has taken a firm position of adhering to its Plan, and with the support from the University, College and the School it will be able to remain in tandem with the aspirations of the University

Ladies and gentlemen, I am sure that you have worked hard in the last four days to produce a Strategic Plan which should guide you through the next five years. The challenge now is full and proper implementation. I believe that this being your document, you are equal to the task.

With those remarks, I now declare this workshop officially closed.