



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**REMARKS BY PROF. PETER M. F. MBITHI, DEPUTY
VICECHANCELLOR (A&F) DURING THE PEDAGOGICAL
TRAINING OF TRAINERS WORKSHOP HELD AT KENYA
WILDLIFE TRAINING INSTITUTE, NAIVASHA ON 10TH –
12TH SEPTEMBER 2007**

The Vice-Chancellor

The Principal, CEES

Trainers and Facilitators

Lecturer trainees

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure once again, to participate and be part of this team as the University proceeds with this phase of pedagogical training for our teaching staff.

As you may be aware, our University has undertaken to play a pivotal role in national development by equipping human resource with relevant knowledge, skills and value systems. Towards this end, the University has not only invested its resources in programmes where it has a competitive edge, it is also delivering such programmes through modern delivery methodologies.

In its 2005-2010 Strategic Plan, the University of Nairobi set for itself a key strategic objective of offering innovative programmes with inbuilt quality control systems. This was to be realized through implementing policies and practices designed to enhance capacity and quality teaching and learning. One performance indicator in this regard is the number of teaching staff who have been trained in pedagogical skills.

To ensure that the above objective is realized, the University has retained training of lecturers in pedagogy as one of its performance indicator targets in its performance contracts with the government since 2005/2006. In 2006/2007, the University had undertaken to train all teaching staff in the faculty of Arts, CHSS, but we managed to train all teaching staff in the College (302) by end of the contractual year. I take this opportunity to thank the trainers and facilitators for this achievement.

This year (2007/2008), the University has undertaken to train all staff in the Colleges of Biological and Physical Sciences and Architecture and Engineering. I will be greatly pleased if through concerted effort, you manage to train staff in these colleges and beyond, so that instead of scoring 100%, we manage to score in the region of 130%-150% (i.e. excellent). This would entail completing the training in the two colleges and proceeding to a third one.

To meet these targets, there are various challenges which the trainers must be ready to surmount, key among them being proper management of time, being ready to sacrifice for the common good and greater commitment and accountability. Such commitment and devotion must also feature among the trainees for the programme to succeed.

You are aware that initially, training in pedagogy among staff was met with some caution, with some lecturers wondering why the University has all over sudden assumed that they did not know their stuff, or why one would bother to “teach an old dog new tricks”. Fortunately after the first series of training sessions, staff got to understand that it is essentially about delivery, not retraining in core competencies. Feedback from the groups trained in early 2007 has been that the programme was overdue, and could be spread over more days.

As you are aware, our University operations continue to be hampered by financial constraints, but we continue to do our best and operate within our budget. I must therefore

earnestly appeal to you to give your very best, and to accept the modest manner the University is facilitating this training. I must thank our Vice-Chancellor who continues to give his support to the programme, and who has authorized expenditure of Kshs.1M for this training workshop.

This is an investment by the University which should not be in vain; it should be nurtured to enable us improve standards of teaching and research in our University. The trainers have a critical role to play as the University pursues its objects and functions, and we encourage them to continue playing such role to their best ability.

It is indeed through our joint and individual sacrifices that we shall be able to move ahead and make up for the resources gap noted above, and still achieve greatly. It ties up with our key financial austerity measures and cost cutting goal of achieving more with less.

Ladies and Gentlemen, my office will continue to be open and available to receive informed suggestions on how we can continue improving. I am personally always available to support and facilitate these training sessions. My

Training Section in the Administration is also ready to continue playing a co-ordinating role and we are ready to receive feedback-even on email. Let us all squeeze the available time and resources to enable us train the required numbers within the 2007/2008 financial year.

In conclusion, I wish to most profoundly thank the Principal, CEES who has been key to the success of this programme, plus the Dean, Faculty of Education and all other key facilitators, for their effort in organizing for this workshop. I wish you fruitful deliberations here and other training workshops in the future.

Thank you.