



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**REMARKS MADE BY PROF. PETER M. F. MBITHI, DEPUTY
VICE-CHANCELLOR (A&F) DURING THE COLLEGE OF
HEALTH SCIENCES STUDENTS' LEADERSHIP CAPACITY
TRAINING AT KCCT, MBAGATHI ON FRIDAY 16TH MARCH
2007**

The University Management and the Administration in general recognize and appreciate the student body as a critical, actually the core, part of the University and therefore management of student affairs and student leadership constitute important aspects of the management, administration and governance of the entire University.

This workshop is for training College of Health Sciences student leaders in leadership, with a view to enhancing their leadership capacity so that they can become better performers. But who is a leader? A leader could be described as: "That one who takes you from the known to

the unknown (the desirable unknown).” Many a time people elect leaders not knowing what they expect of the leaders. There are neither benchmarks for gauging a true leader, nor are the followers clear on what they intend their leaders to achieve. It is not strange therefore that on many occasions, the led (followers) blame failure in service delivery on poor leadership even when they have no idea how various problems should have been solved.

The challenge to the student leaders present here and others in the University, is to work to ensure that they are able to identify the various issues and problems affecting our students, and to think of solutions to such issues and problems. Consultations within and among students therefore, become critical in identifying various problems.

Student leadership should bring about change for the better in the University and the student leaders should play a role in the realization of the University’s objectives, and ultimately, its Mission and Vision.

Student leadership can be seen in various levels:

- Individual level**
- Class Representatives**
- Society / Club level**

- **Halls Representatives**
- **Campus organization level**
- **Elected student body level i.e. SONU**

It is important that the different levels of leadership consult and work together, so that the necessary synergy can be forged and solutions to issues have a broad-based, therefore more informed approach.

ROLE OF DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (A&F) IN STUDENT LEADERSHIP

As you are aware, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (A&F) is the head of the Administration and Finance Division of the University, responsible for Human Resource Management, Finance and Assets of the University.

In my involvement in management of student affairs and student leadership, I would like to see a vibrant, focused and visionary student leadership who will assist in a substantive way, and therefore play a significant role as we build a strong, world class University. Such leadership should be seen in the proper care and management of:

- **Students and assets (e.g. vehicles),**

- **Students and facilities (teaching and accommodation facilities),**
- **Students and the University Physical environment (students need to take good care of their physical environment, including grounds and playing fields).**
- **Student Finances.**

If the above (i.e. assets, facilities, finances and the environment) are used in an accountable and transparent manner, then we shall maximize efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery to both students and staff, and to our stakeholders.

With those few remarks, I wish you fruitful deliberations and a productive training.

Thank you.