



**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

**REMARKS MADE BY PROF. PETER M. F. MBITHI, DEPUTY VICE-  
CHANCELLOR (ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE) DURING THE  
OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE THIKA DROP IN CENTRE (DICE) OF THE  
CENTRE FOR HIV PREVENTION AND RESEARCH (CHIVPR) HELD AT  
THIKA SAWA HOUSE, THIKA ON OCTOBER 31, 2011 AT 9.00 A.M.**

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**Our Development partners;**

**Representatives from the two Ministries of Health;**

**Fellow Colleagues;**

**Participants;**

**Invited Guests;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

**It gives me great pleasure to have yet another opportunity this year, to preside over a function of the CENTRE FOR HIV PREVENTION AND RESEARCH (CHIVPR) MARPS PROJECT**

**I am delighted to have been invited to this official opening of the Thika Drop in Centre. Many of you will recall that it is not long ago when I presided over the Strategic Planning Workshop of the same project.**

**Ladies and gentlemen, I need not belabour the genesis of MARPS Project but I am very impressed by the progress of events that have continued to characterize it since its initiation in September 2010. The idea of creating a Centre with an orientation in research in the development of effective and comprehensive prevention and care of HIV and AIDS interventions for female commercial sex workers, Men who have Sex with Men, male sex workers, Injecting drug users, little girls and boys in and out**

**school, and truck drivers is indeed a noble one. This is a major contribution to Vision 2030 and Millennium Development Goal 3.**

**Through the support of our esteemed partners, the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) and GOK Ministries of Health, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry responsible for Provincial Administration, Office of the President, the Director, Centre for HIV Prevention and Research (CHIVPR) has proactively steered the Centre towards partnership arrangements that have put into play the synergy that is very crucial in the takeoff stage for the MARPS Project as well as ensuring its sustainability..**

**CHIVPR has been at the frontline of conducting most research activities and providing community services related to HIV and AIDS at the University of Nairobi. I am reliably informed that these services began in 1990 when the Centre was a small project linked up with its counterpart departments in the University. Over time, this linkage has grown into major international collaborations namely,**

**CDC, University of De Paul (Chicago), University of Washington, University of Manitoba and University of Victoria (Canada), thus positively impacting on the National and Global development.**

**In addition, and as further evidence on this development locally, UoN-CHIVPR has 50 staff and has mobilized 33,457 Most at Risk Populations within only one year, thus bridging the principle of spreading love and teamwork, with no discrimination of People Living with HIV/AIDS. Such discrimination fuels new HIV infections and increases negative impact of AIDS.**

**On behalf of the University of Nairobi Management, let me express our satisfaction with the work done by the Centre for HIV Prevention and Research (CHIVPR) MARPS project, which is of assistance to a great majority of Kenyans who are either infected or affected by HIV/AIDS.**

**It is on account of this that the University, through the College of Health Sciences where CHIVPR is located, has made an undertaking to establish a clinic for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and referrals among Most at Risk Populations (MARPS) in Central Kenya in 2011/2012 FY. This will hopefully lead to enhancement and promotion of individual health and lifestyle. This is indeed meant to be one of the University's Vision 2030 flagship project under the College.**

**Let me now recognize CDC, the entire management in Nairobi and Atlanta Georgia, USA for being a partner in deed. Also, we all note with appreciation that Government of Kenya Ministries have now welcomed us into their "family" of doers.**

**In conclusion, it is important to note that although the challenges including stigma and discrimination exist, as long as we regard ourselves as one people with one purpose, quality health and social care will be achieved.**

**With those few remarks, it is now my great pleasure to declare this DICE officially open, and also commission the DICEs at Makindu, Meru, Nyeri, Embu and Machakos.**

**Thank you and God bless you all**