



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**REMARKS BY PROF. PETER M.F. MBITHI,
VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI,
DURING THE LAUNCH OF ‘CONSTRUCTION OF
KNOWLEDGE SOCIETIES’- “Elimika”
COMMUNICATION STRATEGY HELD ON APRIL
29, 2016 IN TAIFA HALL**

- **Amb. Dr. Monica Juma, Principal Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
- **Cabinet Secretary for Education, Science and
Technology, Dr. Fred Matiang'i**
- **Your Excellencies the Governors present**
- **Country Director, Ford Foundation**
- **Distinguished guests**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

On behalf of the University of Nairobi, I wish to extend a warm welcome to you all who have graced this occasion as we launch the Communication Strategy for the ‘Construction of Knowledge Societies in Kenya’, dubbed "Elimika" in Kiswahili.

Elimika is a project of the University of Nairobi which aims at empowering communities for wealth creation and prosperity. Its implementation is both

innovative and adaptable and informed by the need to maximize avenues and strategies for creating knowledge societies.

The initiative is collaborative, and embraces partnership with diverse institutions across the country. Our partners for this project include the Ford Foundation, United States International University-Africa, Media Policy Research Centre.

Other partners of the project include among others, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Ministry of Devolution and Planning, the Ministry of Health, Commission for Revenue Allocation, former Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, Catholic University of Eastern Africa, UNESCO, Kenya National Commission for UNESCO and the African Leadership Centre.

The project unpacks the concept of Human rights, governance, leadership and integrity, devolution and sustainable livelihoods under the framework of Knowledge Societies.

To date, the project has been implemented in five counties- Homa Bay, Kwale, Makueni, Turkana and Nairobi. In the next three years commencing June 2016, the project aims to cover six more counties i.e.

Kajiado, Kakamega, Kisii, Murang'a, Taita Taveta and Uasin Gishu.

The purpose of the launch of this Communication Strategy is to reach out and engage the private sector and other partners to support the project for a phased implementation in all the 47 counties in the country.

The University of Nairobi is committed to providing leadership in capacity building and sustainable

development and the launch of Elimika Collabo is one of such many initiatives.

Ladies and gentlemen, the University of Nairobi has taken the bold step to reach out to and work with counties to ensure that good governance, people's participation and the rights of individuals are embedded in the activities of our daily lives.

As a premier research institution, the university seeks to engage various communities to take advantage of our research findings, which will guide us on the type of interventions and modalities required. Indeed, there are areas where the University is purely a "silent partner", but we shall play our roles to meet the Elimika strategy.

Ladies and gentlemen, during the Elimika Launch held in December 2013, the University committed itself to pushing the Constitution Implementation Agenda. Today, as we celebrate our partnership with

the counties, we renew our commitment. This will be driven by informed scientific research, the search for new technologies that are affordable and sustainable for the counties, and engraving the Constitutional culture on our people. We invite you all to join us in this great initiative.

I believe that your presence here today is testimony of your commitment to the ideals of this project in contributing in the capacity building of our people as envisaged through, “Elimika Uwajibike”.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to appreciate the financial support of the Ford Foundation to this and many other projects and programmes of the university.

As I conclude, allow me once again, to thank you for honouring our invitation to this function.

Thank you and welcome.

PETER M. F. MBITHI, EBS, PHD

VICE CHANCELLOR

AND

PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY SURGERY