



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**VICE CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS DURING THE VETTING
OF UNES STAFF HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 24,
2016 AT ARZIKI CONFERENCE CENTRE AT 10.00 A.M.**

I am happy to preside over this vetting session when our staff who work in the various offices are being vetted on matters of management of confidentiality. This is very important for as you know, the University has in the recent past experienced challenges in handling of information.

Values and principle of Public service as entrenched in Article 232 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 demand of us as Public Officers to inter alia maintain high standards of professional ethics. As members of staff of the University of Nairobi, we are entrusted with public offices, documents and information which pass through our hands on a daily basis.

All these require that we maintain high standards of professional ethics in our day-to-day undertakings as far as official duty is concerned.

You, as Administrators, Accountants, and front officers in the University act as gatekeepers when it comes to serving our clients, and without maintaining proper ethics in the course of public service, the entire University is perceived as a failure in the eyes of the public.

In discharging of duties in various stations, remember that you have a responsibility to facilitate the University in realizing its Vision of a World Class University.

Ladies and gentlemen, Parliament enacted the Public Officer Ethics Act, 2003 which spells out clearly how a public officer should conduct himself as long as he/she is still engaged in public service. This has been narrowed down under Legal Notice Number 170, which contains the Code of Conduct and Ethics for Public Universities.

The University of Nairobi on its part has put in place the Code of Conduct and Ethics, 2014, for its serving employees. It is apparent that all these have been put in place to guide public officers and in this context, the University of Nairobi employees as they undertake their official duties.

The purpose of this vetting exercise is to sensitize and bring you up to speed with the fact that you not only need to comply with the codes of conduct and ethics, but also have a duty to oblige to the relevant code of conduct and ethics.

A lot of confidential information passes through your hands and if you are not ethical in character, there is a likelihood that you will breach the oath of secrecy that you will have sworn to uphold from today henceforth.

I therefore beseech you to take this exercise positively and treat it with the seriousness that it deserves. Do endeavor to uphold high standards of professional ethics throughout your working life at the University.

I call on you to avoid as much as you can, any temptation to disclose confidential information that may come your way in the course of duty, because if you succumb to the temptation to do so, the law together with the oath of secrecy which you have sworn today to will catch up with you and you will have no one to blame.

With those few remarks, I wish you a better working life at the University devoid of social ills that affect public institutions all over the country.

Thank you.

PETER M.F. MBITHI, PhD, EBS

VICE-CHANCELLOR

AND

PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY SURGERY